



# THE ZEAL OF THE LORD

## THE BOOK OF ACTS

Bible study for the week starting March 5, 2023

### SHARE

What's one place or thing on earth you'd love to see more than anything else? Is it a wonder of the world? Landmark? Monument? Something else? Why is this the #1 on your list?

### READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read **Acts 19:21-41**. This is the account of an epic showdown between Paul and his associates and the Ephesians and their goddess Artemis. This is a little different than the spiritual battle in the first half of Acts 19 (the infamous "Sons of Sceva" story – worth the review), but still a spiritual battle nonetheless. What are you learning from these showdowns about the battle between God and Satan over your own heart, soul, strength and mind?
2. Read **Acts 20:1-16**. I always knew Paul and the other apostles got to be a part of God's miracle working. The insight I've gotten during this time in the book of Acts is the connection between the apostles' ministry and Jesus' ministry, as one is the continuation of another. How do you see this playing out? How is this the same or different today?
3. Read **Malachi 3:1-7**. What's the purpose of God's refinement? God is both a judge and a deliverer. But He reminds us He does not change; based on verses 6-7, how is this good news for us?
4. Read **Luke 7:18-28**. What are the marks of Jesus' ministry that identify Him as the Messiah for John the Baptist? Who are the marks of the apostolic ministry in the first generation of the church that validate their ministry?

### PRAY

5. Pray that in our own spiritual battles – big and small – God would be faithful in our lives and others'.



Paul's All-Nighter

Acts 20:1-16

March 5, 2023 – Pastor Eric Van Schannel

A pretty big JOURNEY..

tinyurl.com/pal3rdjourney (an interactive map)

"After the UPROAR ceased..."

"The PROLONGED his speech until midnight."

"As Paul talked STILL LONGER."

God's GRACE for church sleepers

A bigger lesson for those who consider themselves DISCIPLES, APOSTLES, and EVANGELISTS; followers of the Way mirror the MINISTRY and MESSAGE of Jesus.

Maybe the closest thing someone will get to the presence of JESUS is your presence in their life – COPY and PASTE.

Jesus GUARANTEES your resurrection.

*For this Wednesday, read Acts 20:17-38.*

*For this Sunday, read Acts 20:1-16.*



Just Shout Louder! (Or Not.)

Acts 19:21-41

March 1, 2023 – Pastor Eric Van Schannel

There is an ongoing battle for the heart, soul, strength and mind of every person, and you are on the FRONT LINES.

"...saying that gods MADE with hands are not gods."

Something might be good for business, but it makes a LOUSY God.

"TEAR fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was EXTOLLED."

"GREAT IS ARTEMIS OF THE EPHESIANS" (repeat...loudly...for 2 hours straight)

It's easy to think ZEAL means LOUD.

You can be loud and PERSISTENT and completely WRONG at the same time.

Jesus' zeal was different:

1. You see RESOLVE.
2. You see PRINCIPAL.
3. You see HUMBLE OBEDIENCE.

If your zeal is for anything or anyone other than Christ CRUCIFIED and risen, your zeal is misplaced.

It's really easy to let other things DISTRACT us from the true author and perfecter of our faith.

"...You can STEAL away someone's best years not in sweet sin but in a dreary flickering of the mind...in the gratification of curiosities so PEBBLE that the man is only half aware of them..." C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

*For this Sunday, read Acts 20:1-16*