

Acts 19:1-20 | "The Impact of A Local Church"

I. THE ISSUE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LOCAL CHURCH (v. 1-7)

PAUL'S ARRIVAL TO EPHESUS (v. 1)

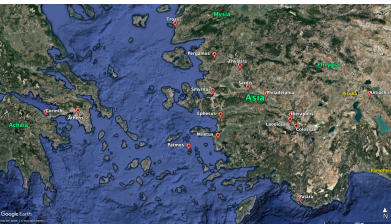
A. (v. 1)

1. "And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,"

a. "Ephesus"



Map 1



Map 2

1) **LOCATION**:¹ Near the West coast of modern-day Turkey, three miles from where the Aegean Sea meets the former estuary of the Cayster River.

2) **BACKGROUND**:

a) Founded in 1044 B.C., but in 333 B.C., Alexander the Great defeated the Persians and captured Ephesus, making it the center of Hellenism.

b) Eventually became THE CAPITAL OF THE ROMAN PROVINCE OF ASIA MINOR.

i. Ephesus was the fourth largest city of the Roman Empire after Rome, Alexandria in Egypt, and Antioch of Syria.

a. Called "the Metropolis of Asia".

i. One Roman writer called it *Lumen Asiae*, "the Light of Asia."

b. Also known as "the Gateway to Asia" because it was a port city.

ii. It was also a Free City, with its own Senate and Assembly.

c) A Center of TRADE AND BUSINESS.

¹ DMS 37° 56' 28" N, 27° 20' 31" E Decimal 37.941111, 27.341944

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Picture 1
Great Theater of Ephesus



Picture 2
Goddess Nike



Picture 3
Temple of Artemis

- i. Ephesus was the LARGEST CITY, with a seaport with the GREATEST HARBOR, in Asia Minor.
- d) A Center of CULTURE in the Roman Empire.
 - i. Ephesus was the seat of the Pan-Ionian Games (the REGIONAL GLADIATOR GAMES), which all of Asia Minor would come to see.
 - a. **Fun Fact:** Archeologists discovered a stone carving of the goddess *Nike* (Gr. "Victory"), who was the Winged Goddess of Victory. The Nike shoe brand was named after this goddess.
 - ii. The Stadium/Theater² was 495 feet in diameter, and sat about 25,000 people (v. 31).
- e) A Center of RELIGION.
 - i. The Greatest Glory of Ephesus was THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS.³
 - a. Greek = *Artemis*; Latin = *Diana*
 - i. Artemis was the multi-breasted goddess of sex, fertility, and hunting.
 - b. Ephesus was known as "the Warden of the Temple of Artemis."
 - ii. This Artemision, or temple to Artemis, was one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world.
 - a. It was 425 feet long, 225 feet wide, with great folding doors.
 - i. This is nearly double the size of the Parthenon in Athens.

² DMS 37° 56' 28" N, 27° 20' 31" E Decimal 37.941111, 27.341944

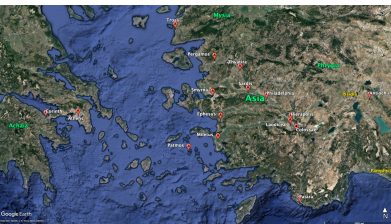
³ DMS 37° 56' 59" N, 27° 21' 50" E Decimal 37.949722, 27.363889
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Picture 4
Artemis

The Lady of Ephesus no. 712, 1st century AD, Ephesus Archaeological Museum



Map 2

b. It had 127 marble columns, each 4-6 feet in diameter and 60 feet high, with some of them covered with gold.⁴

iii. There was a whole INDUSTRY of the manufacture and sale of the idols of Artemis (v. 23-28).

a. The image of Artemis was a black, squat, multi-breasted figure, signifying fertility.

b. The story was that it had fallen from heaven.

i. Some actually believe that it was made from a meteor that fell to Ephesus, and was carved into this multi-breasted figure to worship this god that had fallen from heaven.

f) A Center of PAGAN SUPERSTITION AND SORCERY.

i. Ephesus was a pagan city where people would travel to from all over the world to buy charms and amulets that could cure people, heal infertility, or bring good luck in business.

ii. It was also known for its practice of THE BLACK ARTS AND MAGIC.

g) A Center of CRIME AND IMMORALITY.

i. The Temple area possessed THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM, so any criminal was safe if he could reach the area around the temple, thus Ephesus became A SANCTUARY CITY and home of criminals of the ancient world.

ii. Also, like Corinth, the Temple possessed hundreds of priestesses who were sacred prostitutes.

⁴Wiersbe, W. W. 1997, c1992. *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament*. Victor Books: Wheaton, Ill.

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- h) **NOTE:** In later times, when the Christians were brought from Asia to be flung to the lions in the arena in Rome, Ignatius called Ephesus "the Highway of the Martyrs."⁵
- 3) **POPULATION:** ~250k –500k people
- b. "finding certain disciples"
 - 1) Paul had left Aquila and Priscilla there (18:18-19), and evidently about 12 men got saved and became *disciples* of Jesus (19:7). Also, Apollos visited and preached there (18:24-26) until he left for Corinth (18:27-28; 19:1).

PAUL'S ASSESSMENT OF THE DISCIPLES IN EPHESUS (v. 2-4)

B. (v. 2)

1. "He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost."

- a. There are those that believe that the fullness of the Spirit is given to the believer at conversion.
 - 1) Some say that it should say: "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" Or, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?"
 - 2) **NOTE:** Some manuscripts read "**since** ye believed", and others read "**when** you believed".
 - a) "Since" - KJV, WEB
 - b) "When" - NKJV, ESV, NASB
 - 3) **KEY:** The Greek can be translated correctly either way, and no matter how you translate it, it is the same idea here — you can believe in Jesus Christ and not receive

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what is known as "*the gift of the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 2:38-39).

- b. Whichever reading you accept ("*since*" or "*when*"), they both infer the same thing, that the gift of the Holy Spirit is not necessarily bestowed at the time of conversion.
 - 1) **KEY:** If the receiving of the fullness of the Spirit was automatic with believing faith, then this question is absurd!
- c. There is a SEPARATE AND DISTINCT EXPERIENCE that one can have with the Holy Spirit which is separate from and subsequent to salvation.
 - 1) Jesus taught this when speaking about the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.
 - a) Cf. John 7:37-39; 14:16-17; 20:22; Acts 1:4-5, 8
 - i. 3 different prepositions:
 - a. "*with*" - Gr. *para* - "*alongside*"
 - b. "*in*" - Gr. *en* - "*inside; indwelling*"
 - c. "*upon*" - Gr. *epe*
 - 2) The Book of Acts demonstrates this separate experience of the Holy Spirit distinct from salvation.
 - a) Cf. Acts 1:5, 8; 2:1-4, 14-24, 32-33, 36-41; 4:8, 31-33; 6:3, 5, 8, 10; 7:55-56; 8:14-17; 9:17-22; 10:44-46; 11:22-24; 13:9-12, 52; 19:1-7
- d. **KEY:** Paul must have seen something missing from their experience as believers (Gal. 5:22-23).
 - 1) Lack of a spark of life and enthusiasm?
 - 2) Lack of love?
 - 3) Lack of joy?
 - 4) Lack of a zeal for the things of God?

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- 5) Lack of love for the Word?

- 6) **Q** = Would Paul be prone to ask that question if he met you?...
 - a) Does your life evidence the fulness of the Spirit?
 - b) Is there something missing in your walk with the Lord?
 - c) Are you living a dynamic Christian life?
 - d) Is there a torrent of living water flowing forth from your life?
 - i. If not, why not?
 - a. Paul took measures to correct the situation.
 - b. You should take measures too.
 - e) Cf. **John 7:37-38** - Jesus said, "*In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*"
 - f) Cf. **Luke 11:9-13** - Jesus also said, "*And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your*

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heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

- e. **Q** = Were these guys saved?...
- 1) They are called "*disciples*" (v. 1).
 - a) **NOTE:** Anytime the word "*disciples*" is used in Luke's writings (65x in Luke & Acts), it refers to disciples of Jesus Christ, except when it qualifies specifically "*disciples of John*" the Baptist (Lk. 7:18-19).
 - 2) They had "*believed*" (v. 2)
 - a) Either "*since*" or "*when*" ye believed, they were believers already at this point.
 - i. **NOTE:** If Paul didn't think they were believers, he wouldn't have talked about the Holy Spirit, but would have asked, "Have you believed in Jesus Christ?" Paul would not talk to them about the fullness of the Spirit if they were unconverted (1 Cor. 2:14).
 - b) **NOTE:** John the Baptist taught that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit (Matt 3:11; John 1:32-34), and was himself "*filled with the Holy Spirit*" in his mothers womb (Luke 1:15). These believers did not know about the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Feast of Pentecost, but they still had faith in Jesus to bring salvation.
 - i. **KEY:** John the Baptist was given the authority "*to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins*" (Luke 1:77).
- f. "*we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit*"

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- 1) This does not mean that they had no knowledge of the existence of the Holy Spirit.
 - a) The O.T. teaches about the Holy Spirit. (**Gen. 1:2; Psa. 51:11; 139:7; Isa. 63:10;** etc.)
 - b) John the Baptist taught about the Holy Spirit (**Lk 3:16**).
- 2) Lit. "*Whether the Holy Spirit is, we did not hear.*"
 - a) In other words, they didn't yet hear about the Holy Spirit being given at Pentecost. They didn't hear that He had come yet!
 - b) **NOTE:** It could be that this small group of men went to the feasts in Jerusalem during the time that John was baptizing, and at that time believed on Jesus, the One that was to come.

THE EPHESIAN DISCIPLES FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (v. 5-7)

C. (v. 5)

1. **"When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."**
 - a. Some use this as proof that they were not believers yet. However, I don't think that holds up.
 - 1) Cf. **Acts 8:15-17** - In Samaria, the disciples were "*baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus,*" but were filled with the Spirit *after*.
 - 2) Cf. **Acts 9:5-6, 17-18** - Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, but it was *a few days later* that he received the fullness of the Holy Spirit when Ananias laid hands on him and he was baptized.
 - 3) Cf. **Acts 10:44-48** - Cornelius and his household were filled with the Spirit *before* they were "*baptized in the name of the Lord.*"

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- a) **KEY:** Cornelius and his household were already believers *before* they were "baptized in the name of the Lord," and they were then baptized immediately. In this case in Ephesus, they were just not baptized immediately, but later on.

D. (v. 5)

1. "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

- a. **NOTE:** I believe that these *disciples* (v. 1) had *believed* (v. 2) and were saved, but have now been re-baptized in the water baptism of Jesus (Matt. 28:19-20). Then, *after* Paul laid hands on them, then they received the gift of the Holy Spirit (v. 6)!
- 1) To say that there is no subsequent work of the Holy Spirit after conversion would mean that they were not truly believers until Paul laid hands on them, which would be salvation by works.
- b. **KEY:** Even if this was when they became born again believers, the filling of the Holy Spirit was *after* they were baptized and not instantaneous with salvation, which would have occurred before their water baptism!
- 1) Water baptism is an outward sign that you've already become a believer and follower of Jesus, thus salvation occurred *before* their water baptism. However, their receiving of the Holy Spirit was *after* their water baptism, thus distinct from regeneration.
- c. **Believing/Regeneration → Water Baptism → Filling of Holy Spirit**

II. THE OUTREACH OF THE LOCAL CHURCH (v. 8-12)

DISCIPLESHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH (v. 8-9)

A. (v. 9)

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1. **"But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus."**

a. "he departed from them"

1) "departed" - Gr. *apostas* - "left; withdrew"

a) Our English word "apostasy" comes from this Greek word for "departure," and in this context, it's a term that can be used for a physical departure.

i. **NOTE:** This means that the Greek word *apostas* does not always refer to a moral or religious departure, but can refer to a physical departure as well.

a. This is why I believe that the "falling away" or "departure" of Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians refers to the Rapture of the Church ([2 Thess. 2:3](#)).

b. "separated the disciples"

1) Paul pulls these disciples out of the Jewish synagogue and PLANTED A NEW CHURCH.


a) **NOTE:** This was the beginning a new congregation, who would later receive Paul's letter from prison in Rome, the Epistle to the Ephesians.

c. "disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus"

1) "school of Tyrannus"

a) *Tyrannus* was probably a Gentile sophist (philosophy teacher) or rhetorician (taught rhetoric) that had a lecture hall or school building that Paul used for these meetings.

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- 2) Paul set up A SCHOOL OF MINISTRY to train missionaries out of the Local Church!
 - a) Historical records tell us that these Ionian cities of Asia Minor all stopped work from 11:00am until 4:00pm (like a siesta) because of the heat during the day.
 - i. We are told that there would actually be more people sound asleep in Ephesus at 1:00 PM than at 1:00 AM!!⁶
 - b) So, Paul worked as a tentmaker in the morning (v. 12; 20:33-35), then taught in this School of Ministry every afternoon, then went back to work in the evening!
 - i. This shows us TWO THINGS:
 - a. Paul's eagerness to teach.
 - b. The people's eagerness to learn.
 - i. Instead of resting, they seized the time!
 - ii. Sometimes we're just wimps!
 Do you have that same eagerness to learn the Word of God?

SENDING OUT TO SURROUNDING CITIES (v. 10-12)

B. (v. 10)

1. ***"And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."***
 - a. *"all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus"*
 - 1) *"Asia"* = Asia Minor (modern-day W Turkey)

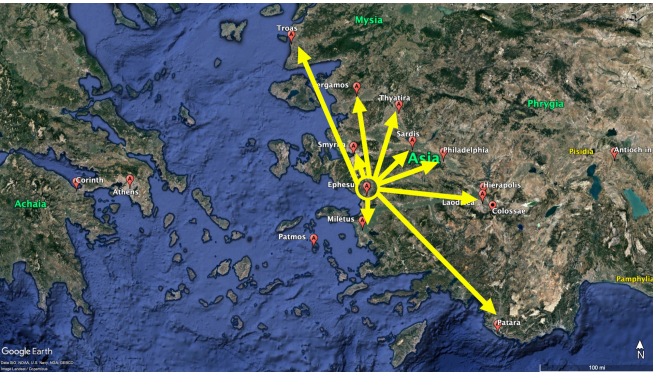
⁶ William Barclay. Acts 19:8-12. <http://www.dannychesnut.com/Bible/Barclay/THE%20ACTS%20OF%20THE%20APOSTLES.htm>

ACTS

THE MOVEMENT BEGINS

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a) **KEY:** *Ephesus* becomes a MISSIONS HUB for church planting in Asia Minor.



Map 3
Church Plants in Asia Minor

i. MANY CHURCHES WERE PLANTED in the surrounding area — *Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laocicea* (Rev. 1:11; 2–3), *Colossae, Hierapolis* (Col. 4:13)

a. **NOTE:** The churches in Colosse and Laodicea were not founded *directly* by Paul (Col. 2:1), but *indirectly* from his ministry in Ephesus (Acts 19:10).

i. Colosse was probably founded by Epaphras (Col. 1:7; 4:12-13), who may also be called Epaphroditus, a missionary from Philippi (Phil. 2:25) that came to Ephesus for Paul’s school of ministry and went out from there to found the church in Colosse (Col. 1:7) and to oversee the region (Col. 4:12-13).

ii. Cf. Acts 1:8 - Jesus said, “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*”

a. **KEY:** Jesus’ method of church planting is to start in our Jerusalem, then our surrounding areas, then further out, until you reach out in World Missions.

GOD’S MODEL FOR CHURCH PLANTING & MISSIONS				
Acts 1:8	Jerusalem Church	Antioch Church	Ephesus Church	Calvary Chapel Escondido
Jerusalem	Jerusalem (1-7)	Antioch (13:1)	Ephesus (19:9-10a)	Escondido

ACTS

THE MOVEMENT BEGINS

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GOD'S MODEL FOR CHURCH PLANTING & MISSIONS				
Acts 1:8	Jerusalem Church	Antioch Church	Ephesus Church	Calvary Chapel Escondido
Judea	Judea (8:1), including Joppa (9:42)	Areas of Cilicia, Syria, Galatia (13:4 - 16:5)	Asia Minor (19:10b)	San Diego County
Samaria	Samaria (8:1)	Areas of Greece & Asia Minor (16:6 - 19:20)	Greece & Macedonia (20:1-16; 1 Cor. 16:19; 1 Tim. 1:3; 2 Tim. 4:20; Titus 3:12)	California
Ends of the earth	Cilicia, Galatia, Asia Minor, Greece, Rome, & beyond (11:19 - 28:31)	Rome & beyond (19:21 - 28:31)	Jerusalem, Rome, & beyond (20:4 w/ 21:19; Rom. 16:3)	USA & beyond to all nations



Map 4



Map 5



Map 6



Map 7

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- 2) **NOTE:** The Church in Ephesus had a RICH HISTORY and was so blessed with INCREDIBLE PASTORS!
- a) There were people from *Asia Minor* that were there on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:9**) that got saved and were part of the church in Jerusalem.
 - b) Paul taught them the whole counsel of God's Word (**Acts 20:27**) and raised up elders (**Acts 20:28**).
 - c) While in prison in Rome, Paul will write his letter to the church in Ephesus (**Eph. 1-6**)
 - d) Timothy was their pastor for a time (**1 Tim. 1:3**) after Paul was released from prison in Rome (~A.D. 62-62).
 - e) The Apostle John eventually settled in Ephesus with Mary, the mother of Jesus (**John 19:26-27**) where she died.
 - i. Tradition tells us that John wrote his Gospel while an old man (~90-100 AD), and where he wrote his three epistles (**1-3 John**).
 - f) However, it was about 40 years after the church was founded that Jesus had the Apostle John write letters to the seven churches of Asia (~96 AD), and Ephesus was the first (**Rev 2:1-7**) because of its prominence.

C. (v. 11)

1. "And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:"

- a. "special" - Gr. lit. "not ordinary"
 - 1) These miracles were the EXCEPTION rather than the rule.
 - a) It seems that some so-called ministers make these miracles the rule rather than the exception. (i.e. prayer cloths; healing water; etc.)

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- 2) **Q** = How can you explain the healings through these unusual means?
 - a) Cf. **Mark 5:27-34** - We remember the woman with the issue of blood that was healed when she touched Jesus' garment.
 - b) Cf. **John 5:4** - The pool of Bethesda near the sheep gate in Jerusalem, the water was troubled at certain occasions and the first one in the water was healed.
 - c) Cf. **Acts 5:15-16** - People were healed when the shadow of Peter would overshadow them.
- 3) **KEY:** What was the common denominator among all these cases?... Their faith that when a certain thing transpired, they would be healed! There was a point of contact for releasing their faith!
- 4) **NOTE:** That is why people can even get healed at meetings of some false prophets.
 - a) Cf. **Matthew 7:21-23** - In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*
- 5) **KEY:** People are healed at the meetings of false teachers, but that doesn't give legitimacy to these men, but to the faith of those being healed!

D. (v. 12)

1. **"So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them."**

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- a. "handkerchiefs" - Gr. "sweat-rags; sweatbands"
 - 1) These were *sweatbands* that Paul wore around his head while working his day job as a tentmaker.
- b. "aprons" - Gr. "linen coverings"
 - 1) These were the common coverings worn by artisans and workmen, which Paul would have worn as a tentmaker and leatherworker.

III. THE REACTIONS TO THE LOCAL CHURCH (v. 13-41)

REACTION OF THE IMITATORS (v. 13-20)

A. (v. 13)

- 1. **"Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth."**
 - a. These were *traveling Jewish fortunetellers*⁷ dealing with the Occult, which was forbidden under the Law of Moses (**Deut. 18**).
 - 1) "vagabond" - Gr. "strolling; itinerant; traveling"
 - 2) "exorcists" - Gr. "those who use spells or charms"
 - b. These *Jewish exorcists* saw how Paul cast out demons, but they took what he did as a magical formula or spell with which to drive out demons.

B. (v. 15)

- 1. **"And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?"**
 - a. The demon:
 - 1) Knew who Jesus was (**Mark 5:6-7**).

⁷ Josephus, Ant. VIII:2:5.
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- 2) Knew who Paul was.
 - a) Cf. **Job 1:6-10** - Satan knew who Job was and knew his situation.
- 3) Did not know these *exorcists*!

- b. "*but who are ye?*" - Gr. very emphatic - lit. "*But **you?** Who are **you?!***"
 - 1) A secondhand relationship is not valid.
 - 2) It cannot be Jesus, who Paul preaches.
 - 3) It must be by Jesus who dwells in me.
 - 4) Someone has said that God has no grandchildren.
 - 5) We, each of us, need our own personal experience with Jesus Christ.
 - a) There are those today who are trusting to make it to heaven on the faith of their parents for grandparents.
 - b) The Bible clearly teaches that every man will be responsible for himself.

C. (v. 16)

1. "***And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.***"
 - a. "*leaped on*" - Gr. "*to spring upon like a panther; assaulted*"
 - b. "*overcame*" - Gr. "*overpowered; subdued*"
 - c. "*prevailed against*" - Gr. "*exerted force over; beat down upon*"

D. (v. 17)

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1. **"And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified."**
 - a. *"this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus"*
 - 1) Everybody in town knew what happened to these guys!
 - a) How EMBARRASSING!! 😂
 - i. It was all over social media (TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.)!
 - b. *"the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified"*
 - 1) *"name"* - Gr. *onoma* - *"character; fame; reputation"*
 - a) In Jewish thought, a *name* is inseparable from the person to whom it belongs. In other words, your *name* is synonymous with who you are in your *character*.
 - 2) *"magnified"* - Gr. *"made great; exalted; highly esteemed"*

E. (v. 19)

1. **"Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver."**
 - a. *"curios arts"* - Gr. *"magical arts"*
 - b. *"books"* - Gr. *biblos* - *"scrolls"*
 - 1) These were writings on papyrus scrolls that were inscribed with magical formulas and symbols.
 - a) "Magic Papyri" have been discovered in Egypt where pagan writers refer to charms, slips of parchment that contained cabalistic words and

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sentences which were deposited in little silk bags and worn like amulets. A great trade was carried on in *Ephesia grammata*, or *Ephesian writings*. These were carried about the body for the purpose of curing diseases, expelling demons, and preserving from evils of different kinds.

- 2) Ephesus was known for its occult literature, known as *Ephesia Grammata*.
- c. "brought their books together, and burned them before all men"
- 1) **Illust.** - When I was first walking with the Lord, I remember the Lord pressing it on my heart to get rid of all my old CD's.
 - 2) **Q** = Is there anything in your life that needs to be discarded or thrown out? Anything from the old life that needs to be down away with?...
- d. "fifty thousand pieces of silver"
- 1) **Q** = How much is that today?... About \$6 million
 - a) Since Ephesus was a Greek city, these *silver pieces* were probably the Greek drachmae or Roman denarii.⁸⁹
 - i. 1 drachmae = 1 Roman denarius = 1 day's wage
 - ii. \$15/hour¹⁰ x 8 hours/day = \$120/day
 - iii. 50,000 days wage = 50,000 x \$120 = **\$6 million**

⁸ Cf. Luke 15:8-9

⁹ If in Jewish coinage, this would be 50,000 *Temple shekels* of silver. Cf. Exodus 30:13; Matthew 17:24 - "tribute" - Gr. *didrachma* = 1/2 shekel of the sanctuary that paid the Temple tax = 2 drachma. Thus, 1 whole shekel = 4 drachma = 4 denarii = 4 day's wages. See *Pulpit Commentary*, Matthew 17:24, p. 179. 1 Temple shekel = 4 drachmae = 4 Roman denarii = 4 day's wage; \$120 x 4 = \$480 x 50,000 = \$24 million

¹⁰ Minimum wage in California today in 2022 is \$15/hour.