

ACTS - FROM RESURRECTION TO REVELATION

Lesson 38

Review: *As the city of Ephesus receives the Gospel, the devil not only loses souls, but they both denounce and destroy everything that was associated with their bondage.*

I. Alexander, the Apostle's Apostate Adversary - Acts 19:23-34

Answers about ALEXANDER - (Gk. "defender of men")

- 1) Who was he? - A Jewish coppersmith of Ephesus; possibly a lead spokesman for his craft - II Tim. 4:14
- 2) Was he saved? - At some point, he identified himself with Christians, and Paul states that he "shipwrecked his faith" and he "turned him over to satan that he would be chastened for his blasphemy" - I Tim. 1:19-20
- 3) How was he an adversary? Paul said he did him much evil and had greatly withstood his words - II Tim. 4:15

II. Actions And Attitudes That Arrive With Apostasy

A) A willingness to stand against the POWER of the Truth

- 1) Its exclusive power to SAVE - Acts 4:12
- 2) Its extraordinary power to SANCTIFY - I Cor. 6:9-11
- 3) Its expedient power to SEPARATE - I Cor. 6:14-18

Evidences:

*Mainline denominations that equally esteem all expressions of faith
Political correctness and tolerance that allows for all moral expressions*

B) A willingness to stand against the PURITY of the Truth

- 1) Teaching topics that are COMFORTABLE - II Tim. 4:1-4
- 2) Teaching topics that are CORRUPTING - II Tim. 2:14-16
- 3) Teaching topics that are CONTRARY - II Tim. 2:17-18

Evidences:

*Preaching that focus' on personal growth and prosperity
Preaching that doubts or denies the fundamentals of the faith
Preaching that promotes blasphemous concepts and ideas*

C) A willingness to stand against the PREACHERS of the Truth

Compromise > Contradiction > Corruption > Criticizing > Condemnation