

# Doing Well Wrong

Acts 19:1-20

**Acts 19:1** 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,

**2** 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.

**3** And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

**4** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

**5** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

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

**7** And all the men were about twelve.

- Now we have two different groups of “Well Doers” here in the first half of Acts 19, and I hope to point out the difference in these.
- Our first group is these “**certain disciples**” we see in verses 1-7
- Paul Find’s Them
  - You can’t find what you’re not looking for
    - They must have had a public testimony of their preaching
    - Paul sought them out for a reason

- It's part of a preacher's job to know what's being preached
  - This is evident in his lesson to Timothy
  - We need to know who we should and should not fellowship with **doctrinally**
- Paul Enquires of them
  - Who do you Know?
    - They said John
    - He said What about Jesus?
  - Who is the Holy Ghost?
    - They had no idea
    - They were willing to listen
- Paul Encourages them
  - He said, That's good, but this is better!"
    - He said, you're doing well
    - But you're wrong
  - He introduced them to the Holy Ghost
    - When they heard they were wrong, they wanted to get right
    - When they felt the Power of the Holy Ghost, they found out how to truly praise and worship!
      - They spoke in their tongue
      - They prophesied of Christ's Return
- These that were doing well wrong, started letting Grace Work!

**8** And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

**9** 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.

**10** 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.

- Things were going fairly well for Paul and the Church here at Ephesus for a few months
- When God is working know that the enemy is too
  - There will always be opposition to truth
  - There will always be those who reject the truth
  - We must be willing to separate from those that won't walk in truth
    - If you hold to and walk in the truth those who reject the truth will eventually reject you
    - We can never get the wrong idea of separation
    - We are to show the love of Christ at all times to all men
    - This is what will cause them to separate from you
    - WE simply cannot allow their rejection of the truth have an impact on our obedience to the truth
- Now our next group of welldoers were Jews of the synagogue that had witnessed Paul doing great and mighty things, or so they thought
  - Their ignorance was different than the first group's

### **The Sons of Sceva**

**11** And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

**12** 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.

**13** 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.

**14** And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

**15** And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

**16** 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.

**17** 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.

**18** And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

**19** 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.

**20** So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

- They were vagabond Jews
  - Wandering because their belief that Christ was Messiah disallowed them being part of the synagogue
  - Not spirit filled because knowing who Jesus is and obeying Him are not the same
  - I would say these were believers in Christ but not baptized by the Spirit

- Self-appointed exorcists
  - They wanted Paul's Power
  - This was their ignorance
    - They watched Paul for two years
    - They thought Paul had the Power
    - They thought there was power in words
    - They wanted Paul's Power
    - They didn't want it how Paul got it
- And You are?
  - They commanded the demons in Paul and Jesus' name
  - The demons said, "We know Paul, We know Jesus, but who are you?"
    - This is "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof"
    - These vagabond Jews are like...
      - People in church who know how to look and act like the pastor
      - People in church who hear what the pastor says and try to live it out
      - People in church who simply do not have a close walk with Christ
      - They are not being baptized daily in the Spirit of God
      - They wrestle with secret sins because they don't know how to find freedom from them
      - They are powerless before satan and his minions
    - The world, the devil, and his minions cannot deny the true power of God, but they WILL deny yours
- I can't help but see while reading in Acts, the lessons Paul learned and taught in the epistles.

- In 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy chapter 3, the apostle Paul teaches Timothy a great lesson which I believe Paul himself learned here at Ephesus.
- **2Timothy 3:1** This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
  - 2** For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
  - 3** Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
  - 4** Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
  - 5** Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.
  - 6** For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,
  - 7** Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
  - 8** Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.
  - 9** But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.
- Ex-exorcists Exposed
  - The Sceva Seven sent packing
    - In the light of God's power darkness must flee
    - No strength in numbers, only strength with the Spirit
  - Their testimony of "doing well wrong" was used greatly by God

- Many believed
  - Confessed “their” deeds
  - Shewed “their” deeds
- God’s Word grew and prevailed

**There are two ways to do well, and yours is the wrong one,  
every time.**