

Acts 18-19 *The Second Missionary Journey. Corinth and Ephesus***NOTES****Acts 18:1-18 Corinth – *Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace!***

1. **Paul came to Corinth and chose to abide and work with Aquila and Priscilla (tentmakers) while he reasoned and persuaded the Jews and Greeks in the synagogue weekly. (16:1-6)**
 - ✓ Paul found a certain Jew named Aquila with his wife Priscilla and abode with them.
 - ✓ They were of the same craft and occupation – tentmakers.
 - ✓ Paul reasoned and persuaded and was pressed in the spirit to preach Christ crucified.
 - ✓ The Jews “opposed themselves” and blasphemed God breaking Commandment #3.
2. **Paul departed from the synagogue and chose to enter into private discussions from house to house which led many Corinthians to hear and believe and then to be baptized. (18:7-11)**
 - ✓ Paul went into Justus’ house – “one that worshipped God” but had not believed on Christ.
 - ✓ Crispus – the chief ruler of the synagogue – believed on the Lord with all his house.
 - ✓ Many of the Corinthians hearing believed and were baptized.
 - ✓ Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace... I am with thee... no man shall hurt thee.
 - ✓ Paul preached and taught the word of God in Corinth for a year and six months.
3. **Eventually, persecution came from unbelieving Jews which led to the beating of Sosthenes and ultimately Paul’s departure after 18 months at Corinth. (18:12-18)**
 - ✓ The unbelieving Jews stirred up trouble again and brought Paul to the judgment seat.
 - ✓ Sosthenes – the chief ruler of the synagogue – was beaten for supporting Christ’s work.
 - ✓ Aquila and Priscilla join Paul’s missionary team and were faithful laborers to the end.

Acts 18:19-28 Ephesus – *what God can do with faithful common people!*

1. **Paul came to Ephesus and left Aquila and Priscilla there while he returned to Jerusalem and Antioch before beginning his 3rd missionary journey through Galatia to Ephesus. (18:19-23)**
 - ✓ Paul left Aquila and Priscilla at Ephesus and entered the synagogue himself.
 - ✓ Those in the synagogue desired him to tarry, but he said he would return, if God will.
 - ✓ Paul wanted to get to Jerusalem for the great opportunity there to preach the gospel.
 - ✓ Paul returned to Antioch for a time and then began his 3rd missionary journey in Galatia.
2. **While stationed in Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla were used by God to instruct a certain, lost Jew named Apollos from Alexandria in the way of God more perfectly. (18:24-28)**
 - ✓ Apollos was a Jew born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures.
 - ✓ He was instructed in the way of the Lord, he was fervent in the spirit, and he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.
 - ✓ When Aquila and Priscilla heard him and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.
 - ✓ He received the instruction wisely, put his faith in Christ alone preached Christ crucified.
 - ✓ He mightily convinced the Jews publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

Acts 19:1-7 Ephesus – *Beware of the tongues – they are not for us!*

1. **Paul returned to Ephesus on his 3rd missionary journey and found 12 Jewish disciples of Apollos most likely who had been baptized unto the baptism of John the Baptist. (19:1-7)**
 - ✓ It was indeed God’s will that Paul returned to Ephesus on his 3rd missionary journey.
 - ✓ Paul found twelve disciples of Apollos and questioned them why they had been baptized.
2. **Paul said that John baptized people and told them they should believe on the Lord Jesus Christ – the**

Messiah – who he was sent to prepare the Jews to receive. (19:4-5)

- ✓ Paul said that John instructed the people to believe on Him which should come after him.
- ✓ They believed the words of Paul and put their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.
- ✓ After they believed, Paul baptized them in the name of the Lord Jesus.

3. For the twelve Jewish disciples caught in the transition, Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them and they spake with tongues and prophesied. (19:6-7)

- ✓ Because these were Jews that were still in the transition, Paul laid his hands upon them and the Holy Ghost came upon them in a similar manner as the Samaritans in Acts 8.
- ✓ They spoke with tongues – known languages – and prophesied so that Paul (the unbelieving Jew related to whether they were truly saved) would know for sure that they were saved.

Acts 19:8-41 Ephesus – how the word of God grew and prevailed in Ephesus!**1. In Ephesus, Paul spake boldly in the synagogue for 3 months, and then separated the church (disciples) in a school (meeting place) in order to equip them for service. (19:8-10)**

- ✓ Paul preached boldly in the synagogue for three months of the kingdom of God until many became hardened through unbelief and spoke evil of that way (God's church).
- ✓ Paul separated the disciples (church) to ground and equip them to take the gospel to the world.

2. God wrought many special miracles by the hands of Paul which led to the rise of many false prophets and teachers who attempted to do miracles by their own power. (19:11-16)

- ✓ God worked through Paul to do many things that have nothing to do with us at this time in history.
- ✓ Seven sons of one Sceva (a Jew) tried to use the name of Jesus for their own glory against an evil spirit which ended up causing them great embarrassment and pain.

3. The demise of the false teachers was known to all the Jews and Greeks (Gentiles) dwelling at Ephesus, fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. (19:17-20)

- ✓ The fall of the false teachers caused great fear to fall on all the Jews and Greeks in Ephesus and for the name of the Lord Jesus to be magnified (it was not a name to be used in vain).
- ✓ Many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their ungodly deeds, and many also brought their ungodly, evil books (things which had caused them to sin against God) and burned them before all men.

4. Paul sent two of his team to Macedonia while he stayed at Ephesus – and at the same time there arose no small stir about that way which opposed the great Diana. (19:21-28)

- ✓ Paul purposed in the spirit to visit the churches in Greece, to go to Jerusalem, and to see Rome.
- ✓ Demetrius the silversmith was motivated by the love of money and fear of losing his profits.
- ✓ Demetrius' accusation was that Paul had persuaded and turned away much people, saying they be no gods which are made with hands.
- ✓ Demetrius said that the temple of the great goddess Diana was magnificent and that all Asia and the world worshipped her.

5. The whole city of Ephesus was filled with confusion as emotions were stirred by Demetrius. (19:29-41)

- ✓ The whole city was filled with confusion as the craftsmen cried out saying, "Great is Diana."
- ✓ Paul was given counsel by certain of the chief of Asia (his friends) not to enter the theatre.
- ✓ The town clerk said Ephesus worshipped Diana and the image which fell from Jupiter.
- ✓ The town clerk called the temple of Diana a "church" – God preserved it for us in the KJV Bible.

Personal Applications

1. What did God speak to you about tonight? What does He want you to do differently beginning now?
2. Have you taken ownership of the Gospel ministry personally? Are you ready to advance the Gospel?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: *"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."*
 – Paul (1 Corinthians 2:1-5; inspired by the Holy Ghost)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 18:1-18 – Corinth: *Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace!*

NOTES**PREACHING NOTES**

1. Paul ***came to Corinth*** and chose to ***abide*** and **WORK** with Aquila and Priscilla (***tentmakers***) while he ***reasoned and persuaded*** the Jews and Greeks ***in the synagogue weekly***. 18:1-6

- ✓ Paul ***found*** a certain Jew named ***Aquila*** with his wife ***Priscilla*** and abode with them...
Acts 18:26; Romans 16:3, 4 ("my helpers"); 1 Corinthians 16:19 ("church...in their house"); 2 Tim 4:19
- ✓ They were of the ***same craft*** and occupation – ***tentmakers***...
Acts 20:34, 35; 1 Corinthians 4:12; 2 Corinthians 11:9; 1 Thessalonians 2:5; 2 Thessalonians 3:8, 9
- ✓ Paul ***reasoned*** and ***persuaded*** and was ***pressed in the spirit*** to preach Christ crucified...
Acts 17:2; Luke 4:16; Acts 18:13; 19:36; 26:28; 28:23; 2 Corinthians 5:11
- ✓ The Jews ***"opposed themselves"*** and ***blasphemed God*** breaking Commandment #3...
2 Timothy 2:25; Exodus 20:7; Acts 20:26, 27; Ezekiel 3:16-27; 33:1-20; Matt 10:14; Luke 9:5; 10:10-11

NOTE It is important to note that although Paul was one of the chief apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, he sought out and found humble, common people to abide with and labor together with in the work of the Lord. Aquila and Priscilla would become lifelong friends of Paul and would be with him unto the end (2 Tim 4:19). It is also important to see that although he was by many measures a scholar, yet he had learned a craft that was profitable for him in ministry. He was able to work with his hands day by day with Aquila and Priscilla to pay for his daily necessities. He is a great example of work ethic, diligence and humility for all of us to follow. Paul was a faithful witness to reason and persuade those in the synagogue weekly concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:11, Paul said, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." He was a faithful "watchman" of the gospel. He blew the trumpet of judgment to warn the people about judgment and wrath to come. And when they chose to reject his message, he was able to say, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean." This was not an arrogant statement as he was merely doing what Jesus said in Luke 10:10-11. Paul was truly faithful to speak for God to all that God would have to be in his path every day.

2. Paul ***departed from the synagogue*** and chose to enter into **PRIVATE** discussions from house to house which led to ***many Corinthians*** being ***saved and baptized***. 18:7-11

- ✓ Paul went into **Justus'** house – “one that **worshipped God**” but had **not believed on Christ**... Acts 10:2, 22; Colossians 4:11; Acts 13:42; 16:14; 17:4
- ✓ **Crispus** – the **chief ruler** of the synagogue – **believed** on the Lord with all his house... Mark 16:15; Acts 18:17; 13:15; Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 1:13-17
- ✓ **Be not afraid**, but **speak**, and **hold not thy peace**... **I am with thee**...no man shall hurt thee... “Speak” Acts 5:20; 16:9; Exodus 4:12; Joshua 1:5, 9; Isaiah 41:10; 58:1; Jeremiah 1:17; Ezekiel 2:6-8; 3:9-11; Jonah 3:2; Micah 3:8; Ephesians 6:19, 20; “I am with thee” Matthew 28:20; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Timothy 4:17, 22; “no man” Isaiah 54:17; Jeremiah 15:20-21; Matt 10:30; Luke 21:18; Romans 8:31
- ✓ Paul **preached and taught the Word of God** in Corinth for **a year and six months**... Acts 17:2 (Thessalonica, 3 sabbaths); Acts 20:31 (Ephesus, 3 years)

NOTE What an incredible thing it must have been for Paul to hear the Lord in a vision saying, “Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.” Wow! What are we afraid of?? What keeps us from speaking on behalf of our Lord and Savior who paid the price for our sins that we might be saved from the wrath to come?? We need to be exhorted by these words. “What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Rom 8:31) Jesus said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15) He also said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Mt 28:18-20) What is keeping you from obeying your Lord ?? Let’s go, stand, and speak for Him this week!!

3. Eventually, **PERSECUTION** came from **unbelieving Jews** which led to the **beating of Sosthenes** and ultimately the Paul’s departure after **a year and six months** at Corinth. 18:12-18

- ✓ The **unbelieving Jews** stirred up trouble again and brought Paul to **the judgment seat**... Acts 13:50; 14:2, 19; 17:5, 13; 21:27; Matthew 27:19; John 19:13; James 2:6
- ✓ **Sosthenes** – the **chief ruler** of the synagogue – was **beaten** for supporting Christ’s work... 1 Corinthians 1:1; Acts 18:8; 2 Timothy 3:2
- ✓ **Aquila and Priscilla** join Paul’s missionary team and were **faithful laborers** to the end... Acts 18:26; Romans 16:34; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19 (Paul’s last words)

NOTE Mark it down – any time God is at work, there will be many adversaries coming to stop it! Sosthenes, who was a chief ruler before trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, had the privilege of sharing in the fellowship of Christ’s sufferings (Phil 3:10). Paul said, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” (2 Tim 3:12) In spite of the persecution, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ came to Corinth and a church was planted over the course of the next 18 months. This must have been a special place as God would have Paul to stay and personally teach and preach the word of God until the church was grounded and ready to bring God the most glory possible without him. Aquila and Priscilla were such a great team together as they were faithful laborers who were willing to prioritize God’s work above all the pleasures in this world. What is keeping you from being such a faithful resource to God for His use and for His glory?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.
 - ✓ Have you **believed God’s words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
 - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: *"Christ's call is to save the lost, not the stiff-necked; He came not to call scoffers but sinners to repentance; not to build and furnish comfortable chapels, churches, and cathedrals at home in which to rock Christian professors to sleep by means of clever essays, stereotyped prayers, and artistic musical performances, but to capture men from the devil's clutches and the very jaws of Hell. This can be accomplished only by a red-hot, unconventional, unfettered devotion, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to the Lord Jesus Christ."* — C.T. Studd (1860-1931; British missionary to China)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 18:7-18 – Corinth (Part Two): Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace!

NOTES**PREACHING NOTES**

1. Paul **departed from the synagogue** and chose to enter into **private discussions** from house to house which led **many Corinthians** to **HEAR** and **believe** and then to be **baptized**. 18:7-11

- ✓ Paul went into **Justus' house** – "one that **worshipped God**" but had **not believed on Christ...**
Acts 10:2, 22; Colossians 4:11; Acts 13:42; 16:14; 17:4
- ✓ **Crispus** – the **chief ruler** of the synagogue – **believed on the Lord** with all his house...
Mark 16:15; Acts 18:17; 13:15; Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 1:13-17
- ✓ **Many** of the Corinthians **hearing believed**, and were **baptized...**
Romans 10:14-17; 1:16; Luke 16:29-31; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; Colossians 1:4-6; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Jeremiah 23:28-29; Luke 8:11, 21; 11:28; 2 Corinthians 2:17; Hebrews 4:12-13; Revelation 1:9
- ✓ **Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace... I am with thee...**no man shall hurt thee...
"Speak" Acts 5:20; 16:9; Exodus 4:12; Joshua 1:5, 9; Isaiah 41:10; 58:1; Jeremiah 1:17; Ezekiel 2:6-8; 3:9-11; Jonah 3:2; Micah 3:8; Ephesians 6:19, 20; "I am with thee" Matthew 28:20; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Timothy 4:17, 22; "no man" Isaiah 54:17; Jeremiah 15:20-21; Matt 10:30; Luke 21:18; Romans 8:31
- ✓ Paul **preached and taught the Word of God** in Corinth for **a year and six months...**
Acts 17:2 (Thessalonica, 3 sabbaths); Acts 20:31 (Ephesus, 3 years)

NOTE It is the goodness of God that leads Him to keep speaking the truth to people even though they reject Him – and to lead them to repentance and faith in Christ (Rom 2:4)! If people really knew **HOW CLOSE** the word of God and the kingdom of God were to them (Deut 30:14; Rom 10:8; Luke 10:9-11)! God paid the ultimate price for the sins of the world through the sacrifice of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Jo 2:2). And, He deserves those for whom He died! The Bible says, *"Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her*

words, saying, How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you (Prov 1:20-23)." God was so good to those of Corinth that when the Jews in the synagogue rejected the message of the Law and the Gospel, He brought the gospel to the house next door! Mark it down – anyone who is willing to **HEAR** the words of God and **BELIEVE** them can be saved! The Bible says, "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Rom 10:17).*" What a testimony against those **religious people** that chose to reject the words of God and the warning of His coming judgment and wrath from His messenger! And, what an incredible thing it must have been for Paul to hear the Lord in a vision saying, "*Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.*" Wow! What **boldness** Paul must have then had in God to speak on His behalf! What are we afraid of?? What keeps us from speaking on behalf of our Lord and Savior who paid the price for our sins that we might be saved from the wrath to come?? We need to be exhorted by these words. "What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom 8:31) Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15) He also said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Mt 28:18-20) What is keeping you from obeying your Lord ?? Let's go, stand, and speak for Him this week!!

2. Eventually, **PERSECUTION** came from **unbelieving Jews** which led to the **beating of Sosthenes** and ultimately the Paul's departure after **18 months** at Corinth. 18:12-18

- ✓ The **unbelieving Jews** stirred up trouble again and brought Paul to **the judgment seat**...
Acts 13:50; 14:2, 19; 17:5, 13; 21:27; Matthew 27:19; John 19:13; James 2:6
- ✓ **Sosthenes** – the **chief ruler** of the synagogue – was **beaten** for supporting Christ's work...
1 Corinthians 1:1; Acts 18:8; 2 Timothy 3:2
- ✓ **Aquila and Priscilla** join Paul's missionary team and were **faithful laborers** to the end...
Acts 18:26; Romans 16:34; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19 (Paul's last words)

NOTE Mark it down – any time God is at work, there will be many adversaries coming to stop it! But, although Paul was beaten in other cities, God had promised that he would **not be hurt in Corinth**. That being said, the promise did not apply to future cities or Paul's friends for that matter!! ☺ Sosthenes, who was a chief ruler before trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, and apparently a friend and help to Paul had the privilege of sharing in the fellowship of Christ's sufferings (Phil 3:10). Paul said, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (2 Tim 3:12) In spite of the persecution, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ came to Corinth and a church was planted over the course of the next 18 months. This must have been a special place as God would have Paul to stay and personally teach and preach the word of God until the church was grounded and ready to bring God the most glory possible without him. Later, God would write more words to Corinth through Paul than any other city in the New Testament – wow! As he departed from Corinth, Paul took with him his fellow helpers in the gospel – Aquila and Priscilla. They were such a great team together as they were faithful laborers who were willing to prioritize God's work above all the pleasures in this world. What is keeping you from being such a faithful resource to God for His use and for His glory?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience** **right now**.

- ✓ Have you **believed God's words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?

- ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History:

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed."

– Hudson Taylor (1832-1905; British missionary to China, founder of China Inland Mission)

*"And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious. But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee;**Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee."*

– Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:7-8; Inspired by the Holy Spirit)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 18:19-28 – Ephesus (Part One): what God can do with faithful common people!

NOTES

PREACHING NOTES

1. Paul came to **EPHESUS** and left **Aquila and Priscilla** there while **he returned to Jerusalem** and **Antioch** before beginning his **3rd missionary journey** through Galatia to Ephesus. 18:19-23

- ✓ Paul left **Aquila and Priscilla at Ephesus** and entered into **the synagogue himself...**
Acts 17:2-3; 18:4; Romans 16:3-5
- ✓ Those in the synagogue **desired him to tarry**, but he said **he would return again, if God will...**
Matthew 26:39; Romans 1:10; 15:32; 1 Corinthians 4:19; Hebrews 6:3; James 4:15
- ✓ Paul wanted to get to **Jerusalem** for the **great opportunity there to preach the gospel...**
Romans 10:1-3; 11:1-3; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- ✓ Paul returned to **Antioch for a time** and then began his **3rd missionary journey in Galatia...**
Acts 14:26-28; 15:36-41; 16:1-5

NOTE Paul must have left Silas and Timothy in Corinth and only had Aquila and Priscilla with him for we see him leaving the couple in Ephesus while he went alone into the synagogue. This is quite an interesting story as it would appear that unlike in other cities, the Jews and those in the synagogue actually wanted him to stay and continue. But, as we read in 18:18, Paul had vowed a vow and shorn his head in Cenchrea and greatly desired to get to Jerusalem to keep the feast that was coming. What do we take from this? Has Paul lost his head and is now desiring to keep the ceremonial law or is there something else happening here? You have to know Paul and what he said to those in Corinth and Rome that he had a great desire to see the Jews get saved. He said to the Jews he became a Jew that he might lead them to saving faith. This is what Paul was doing. The feast in Jerusalem meant that many Jews were headed back there and so it was going to be an opportunity no doubt for the gospel. Maybe he was encouraged by the two rulers of the synagogue who got saved in Corinth (Crispus and Sosthenes) and now with Jews in Ephesus desiring to hear more he is all the more zealous to go preach to his fellow countrymen that they might be saved! After all that though, we do not hear much of the trip as we only know that when he had "gone up, and saluted the church" at Jerusalem, he went to Antioch. How the church at Antioch must have been encouraged by their favorite missionary!! Maybe he even gave them a copy of the letters he had sent to Thessalonica for them to **KEEP** for safe keeping – they sure did that!

2. While **stationed in Ephesus**, Aquila and Priscilla were used by God to **INSTRUCT** a certain, **lost** Jew named **Apollos from Alexandria** in the way of God **more perfectly**. 18:24-28

- ✓ Apollos was a **Jew** born at **Alexandria**, an **eloquent** man and **mighty in the Scriptures**...
Acts 6:9; 7:22; 27:6; Ex 4:10; Isa 3:3; 1 Cor 2:1-5; 2 Cor 10:10; Ezra 7:6, 12; Mt 13:52; Lk 24:19; Col 3:16
- ✓ He was **instructed in the way of the Lord**, he was **fervent** in the spirit, and he **spoke** and **taught diligently** the things of the Lord, **knowing only the baptism of John**...
Romans 12:1; Colossians 1:28, 29; 2 Timothy 2:4; James 5:16; Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:1-38; John 1:19-36; Acts 19:3
- ✓ When **Aquila and Priscilla heard him speak** boldly in the synagogue, they **took him unto them**, and **expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly**...
Mark 12:37; 1 Corinthians 1:1-31; Acts 8:31; 28:23; 2 Chronicles 34:27; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5
- ✓ He **received the instruction wisely**, **put his faith in Christ alone for salvation**, and then **went to Achaia** to **preach Christ** crucified and **helped the church much** there including **Corinth**...
Proverbs 1:5; 9:9; 25:12; Matthew 18:3, 4; Luke 24:27; John 7:17; 1 Corinthians 3:18; 8:2; 12:21
- ✓ He **mightily convinced the Jews publicly**, **shewing by the scriptures** that **Jesus was Christ**...
Acts 19:1; 1 Cor 1:12; 3:5-6; 4:6; 16:12; Titus 3:13; Luke 24:27, 44; 1 Cor 15:1-4; Heb 7-10; John 5:39

NOTE Praise God that He has given us His inspired and preserved holy words in a holy Book that we can hold in our hands and trust every word!! The Bible says that although Apollos was an eloquent man and mighty in the scriptures and instructed in the way of the Lord and fervent in the spirit and though he spoke and taught diligently...he ONLY KNEW THE BAPTISM OF JOHN!! And, although that was truth for a different time, it was NOT the truth that was to lead a person to salvation and eternal life at his time!! How then could he have been saved, if he was NOT preaching the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ and His resurrection for justification?!? He was surely NOT! He was preaching repentance and baptism as a means to get right with God – based on his learning from the school at Alexandria, Egypt!! Well I got news for you – that is what the Church of Christ pastors and Christian Church pastors and many other pastors are preaching on the planet TODAY!!! Apollos was preaching false doctrine *as it were* from Alexandria, Egypt. And yet, the scholars of today want us to believe that Alexandria, Egypt and not Antioch, Syria was the place where God worked so mightily in church history and gave us our Bible!! NO WAY!! What a reminder for us that although men might be eloquent, although men might be mighty in the scriptures, although men might be fervent in the spirit and charismatic in personality, and although men might be instructed in what appears to be the “Bible” it DOES NOT MEAN A THING IF THEY ARE NOT PREACHING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS THE ONLY MEANS OF SALVATION AND TO ESCAPE THE JUDGMENT AND WRATH TO COME OF ALMIGHTY GOD AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!! This puts Apollos at that time in the same camp as Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, Joel Olsteen, the Emerging False Church and all the rest of the FALSE TEACHERS – who are really WOLVES in sheep’s clothing who make merchandise of God’s church through their fair speeches and clever essays and musical performances!! Now, this story has a miraculous and beautiful ending, however. Because...we see that God used a faithful common couple of believers to instruct Apollos in the Lord Jesus Christ and His resurrection and His command to preach the gospel to every creature...and the best news is that although Apollos was all of those things described, he was wise enough to humble himself and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!! Wow! What God can do with a man or woman that is sold out for him! Apollos would become a great preacher for the Lord Jesus Christ because he was willing to humble himself and listen to the truth from two, common people with the holy Bible truth!

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.
✓ Have you **believed God’s words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History:

"Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."

– Peter (Acts 10:47-48; speaking of the Gentiles of Cornelius' house who had believed)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 19:1-7 – Ephesus (Part Two): Beware of these tongues – they are not for us!

NOTES

PREACHING NOTES

1. Paul **returned to Ephesus** on his **3rd missionary journey** and found 12 Jewish disciples of **APOLLOS** most likely who had been **baptized unto the baptism of John** the Baptist. 19:1-3.

- ✓ It was indeed **God's will** that Paul **returned to Ephesus** on his 3rd missionary journey... Acts 18:21; 14:26-28; 15:36-41; 16:1-5
- ✓ Paul found **twelve disciples of Apollos** who had been **baptized unto John's baptism** and **asked them questions** in order to determine **WHY they had been baptized.....** Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:1-38; John 1:19-36; Acts 18:25

NOTE The important question that I must ask you today is this, **"Unto what then were ye baptized?"** Oh that we would follow Paul's lead and be more inquisitive with unbelievers – including those who THINK THEY ARE CHRISTIANS and are not (Mt 7:22, 23). Whether directed by Aquila and Priscilla, some others or by the Holy Ghost, Paul found these twelve men who had been baptized, but did not know anything about the Holy Spirit or Jesus Christ for that matter!! It has been well said by an old preacher, "What! Baptized, and yet know nothing of the Holy Ghost? Ignorance of the Holy Ghost is as consistent with a sincere profession of Christianity as ignorance of Christ is." At our time in church history, we would say that these have been baptized to no purpose at all and have received the grace of God therein in vain (2 Cor 6:1). For, if they had truly been saved, they would certainly have been baptized in their Lord Jesus Christ's name. We must call it what it is – they were only baptized because they were sorry for their sins after hearing of the ministry of John the Baptist and were simply "baptized" as they sincerely confessed their sins and had sincere thoughts of attempting to forsake them going forward (following John's baptism of repentance). All that said, we must call them what they were – **LOST, RELIGIOUS PEOPLE** who were **TRUSTING IN THEIR BAPTISM AND SINCERE THOUGHTS OF RELIGION** as a means to get **RIGHT WITH GOD** and in their sincerity were destined for eternity in a literal place called hell and the lake of fire! And, since we are Bible believers, we would say that is **FALSE DOCTRINE** – the same kind taught by the Church of Christ, Christian churches, and many other false cults including Mormons – and a grave **ERROR!!** We must **STOP** calling people Christians who simply profess to be them! And, we must **START ASKING MORE QUESTIONS** and using the Law to bring the knowledge of sin in the context of God's coming Judgment, wrath and eternal hell to lead them to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Paul said that **John baptized** people and told them they **should BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ – the Messiah** – who he was sent to **prepare the Jews to receive**. 19:4-5

- ✓ Paul said that **John instructed the people to believe on Him which should come after him...** Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:1-38; John 1:19-36
- ✓ They **believed the words of Paul** and **put their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation...** Acts 15:11; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 10:9-13, 17

- ✓ After they believed, **Paul baptized them in the name of the Lord Jesus...**

Matthew 28:19-20; 3:13-17 (Jesus' example); Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; Romans 6:1-7; Acts 8:36-39; 9:18; 10:48; 16:25-33; 18:8; 1 Peter 3:21

NOTE It is important to be reminded today that **WATER BAPTISM DOES NOT SAVE YOU!** Ephesians 2:8, 9 and Titus 3:5-7 state clearly that salvation is by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. There is nothing a person can do to earn salvation. Romans 10:9-13 – one of the clearest passages in the entire Bible on what we as Gentiles must do to be saved – does not include water baptism. The thief on the cross in Luke 23:42-43 who believed on the Lord Jesus was not baptized and yet Jesus said, *"To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."* The Bible is very clear – water baptism by immersion (Mt 3:13-17; Acts 8:38-39) is the first act of obedience in service to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is also our Lord's command (Mt 28:19-20; Acts 10:48). Think about this. So far in the book of Acts, we have seen God moving mightily to the Gentiles by His grace. As Gentiles get saved, we have seen them **IMMEDIATELY** getting baptized by immersion in water. Why do you think that is? The answer is simple. When you by faith trust in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation, you are telling the Lord Jesus Christ that you surrender all – and the life that you now live in the flesh is not for you, but now for His glory. And, if He has made His will known through the Holy Bible, and if He has commanded all that have truly repented and believed on Him for salvation to be baptized as a public testimony to the world that you are now His – then there is really only one thing you can say, *"When is the next available time for me to obey my Lord – whom I fear and trust – and be baptized by immersion in water?"*

3. For the **twelve JEWISH disciples caught in the transition**, Paul **laid his hands upon them**, the **Holy Ghost came on them** and they **spoke with tongues**, and **prophesied**. 19:6-7

- ✓ Because these were **Jews that were still in the transition**, Paul **laid his hands upon them** and the **Holy Ghost came upon them** in a similar manner as the **Samaritans in Acts 8...**

Acts 8:14-17; Acts 2:1-11; 10:44-48; 11:15-18

- ✓ They **spoke with tongues** – known languages – and **prophesied** so that Paul (**the unbelieving Jew related to whether they were truly saved**) would know for sure that they were saved...

1 Corinthians 1:22; 14:22

NOTE Oh how these verses are taken out of their context and used to teach **FALSE DOCTRINE** in the so-called church these days. Charismatic churches among many others erroneously teach that although you might get some of the Holy Spirit when you get saved, the evidence (**they say**) of you getting "more of the Holy Ghost" is that you will "speak in tongues." **THAT IS A LIE!!** Praise God that we have a Holy Bible that has been inspired by the Holy Ghost and preserved in our language so that we can **KNOW THE TRUTH** (Jo 8:32), study and rightly divide the truth (2 Tim 2:15) and **CLEARLY SEE** what is **TRUTH** and what is **ERROR** (1 Jo 4:1)!! The Bible says in 1 Cor 1:22, *"For the Jews require a sign,"* and 1 Cor 14:22 says, *"Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not."* So, we know from these 2 verses that tongues are for a sign to **UNBELIEVING JEWS**. We have seen this already in the book of Acts – most notably in Acts 2, 10 and 11. As we have learned already, biblical "tongues" are not gibberish. They are known languages unknown to the speaker, but known to the hearer. So then, in this passage, the unbelieving Jew is the Apostle Paul who does not know for sure that these Jewish disciples **in transition** (like those in Samaria in Acts 8:14-17!!) have truly believed. As a result of hearing them speak "with tongues" and prophecy, he knows with certainty that they are indeed. Do not be fooled!! And, do not let anyone tell you that speaking in **unknown gibberish tongues** is "evidence" of salvation. That is a **LIE** and the source is the father of lies – the devil himself (Jn 8:44) – **beware!**

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.

- ✓ Have you **believed God's words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?

- ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History:

"Every glimpse that is given us of heaven and of God's created beings is always a glimpse of worship and rejoicing and praise because God is who He is...Any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven."

— A.W. Tozer (1897-1963; American Christian pastor, preacher and author)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 19:8-20 – Ephesus (Part 3): How the word of God grew and prevailed in Ephesus!

NOTES

PREACHING NOTES

1. In Ephesus, Paul **spoke boldly** in the **synagogue for 3 months**, and then **SEPARATED the church** (disciples) **in a school** (meeting place) in order to **equip them for service**. 19:8-10

- ✓ Paul **preached boldly** in the synagogue for **three months** of the kingdom of God until many became **hardened through unbelief** and spoke evil of **that way** (God's church)...
Acts 9:15; 13:14, 46; 14:1; 26:22, 23; Acts 1:3; Jude 1:3; Nehemiah 9:16, 17, 29; Hebrews 3:13

- ✓ Paul **separated the disciples** (church) in order to **equip them to be rooted and grounded in the truth** and to ultimately **take the gospel to the world**...
1 Tim 6:5; 2 Tim 3:5; 4:2; Acts 20:31; Prov 8:34; Matt 26:55; Ephesians 4:11-16; Rev 2:1-7

NOTE It is easy to forget when we are making our way through the book of Acts that this city that we now find the apostle Paul and his missionary team is the great Ephesus!! This is the place where a church was planted that truly became "fully purposed" (what the name Ephesus means). This church would receive two letters from God directly – the book of Ephesians from Paul and the letter to the church of Ephesus in the book of Revelation from John. It is important to note that as a result of the separation of the disciples and church to their own meeting place, they will now be able to focus on sound doctrine, teaching and discipleship (Eph 4:11-16). They will be built up and edified in the word of God and will as a result obey the Lord Jesus Christ's command to preach the gospel to every creature (Mk 16:15). They would sound out the gospel from Ephesus "so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, **both** Jews and Greeks." Read the account of this church again in Rev 2:1-7 to be reminded of what it meant to be "fully purposed" as God gave them so many commendations in that passage. That being said, by 90 AD or so God said, "*thou hast left thy first love.*" God told them to "*repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*"

2. God **wrought many SPECIAL miracles** by the hands of Paul which **led to the rise of many false prophets and teachers** who attempted to do miracles by **their own power**. 19:11-16

- ✓ God worked through Paul to do **many special miracles** and healings that have **nothing to do with us** at this time in church history...
1 Corinthians 1:22; 14:22; Acts 5:12-15; 14:3; John 14:12; Romans 15:18, 19; Galatians 3:5; Hebrews 2:4

- ✓ Seven sons of one Sceva (a Jew) **tried to use the name of Jesus for their own glory** against an evil spirit which ended up causing them **great embarrassment** and **pain...**
Genesis 4:12, 14; Psalm 109:10; Matthew 12:27; 26:63; Mark 5:7; Acts 8:18-19; Jude 4-19; 2 Pet 2:1-22; Acts 16:17, 18; Genesis 3:1-5; 1 Kings 22:21-23; Matthew 8:29-31; Luke 4:33-35; 8:28-32

NOTE Unlike many churches today, we are going to leave the "*special miracles*" with the apostle Paul in chapter 19 of the book of Acts. There is no doubt that God was working there in **BOTH** Jews and Greeks (19:10). The Jews require a sign, and at that time in church history, boy did they get some special ones – and it is quite an amazing thought that the Gentiles got to see them also!! But, now that we have the completed holy Book of God which He has preserved for us in our own language, there is no longer a need for such "special" miracles. The Bible says, "*But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*" (1 Cor 13:10) Praise God that we have all we need in the Authorized Version in English so that we can read and trust every one of God's precious words!! But, oh how **false teachers** love to prey on God's flock (Jer 23)!! In this particular case, God used the demise of seven ungodly religious boys to get the attention of all Ephesus!!

3. The **demise of the false teachers** was known to **ALL the Jews and Greeks** (Gentiles) dwelling at Ephesus, **FEAR fell on them all**, and **the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified**. 19:17-20

- ✓ The **fall of the false teachers** caused **great fear** to fall on **all the Jews and Greeks in Ephesus** and for **the name of the Lord Jesus to be magnified** (it was not a name to be used in vain)...
Acts 2:43; 5:5, 11, 13; 13:12; Leviticus 10:3; 1 Samuel 6:20; 2 Samuel 6:9; Job 28:28; Psalm 64:9; Proverbs 3:7; 14:27; 16:6; Jer 32:40; Luke 1:65; 7:16; 8:37; Php 1:20; 2:9-11; Jude 14, 15; Rev 5:12-14
- ✓ **Many** that **believed** came, and confessed, and shewed their **ungodly deeds**, and **many** also brought their **ungodly, evil books** (things which had caused them to sin against God) and **burned them** before **all men...**
2 Kings 23:16; Ps 32:5; 51:1-19; Prov 28:13; Jer 3:13; Matt 3:6; 1 John 1:9; 2:1-2; Jas 5:16; 2 Cor 7:9-12

NOTE Beware – Satan wins a great victory in your life when you no longer fear God!! How has God's church lost THE KEY of knowledge (Lk 11:52)?!! Have you? The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge! (Prov 1:7) The fear of the Lord is to hate evil! (Prov 8:13) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom! (Prov 9:10) The fear of the Lord prolongeth days! (Prov 10:27) The fear of the Lord is strong confidence! (Prov 14:26) The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death! (Prov 14:27) And, it is **by the fear of the Lord** that men depart from evil (Prov 16:6). Remember the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, "*But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*" (Luke 12:5) And in Matthew 10:28, Jesus said, "*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*" These false teachers were using the name of Jesus in vain, and it was to their own ruin! It is interesting to note how God has used events such as this related to false prophets and teachers all through history to cause fear on the earth and to turn many to Him. Remember, **God is holy** and will not be mocked (Gal 6:7)!! What is so fascinating in this accurate, historical account is the way in which the people of Ephesus **TURNED to God from their idols to serve Him**. (1 Thess 1:9-10) Like Josiah (2 Kings 23:16), they revenged disobedience and sin against God by zealously and fervently destroying all those things in their lives that had previously caused them to sin against God – and that publicly!! We have heard stories of such things in the great revivals throughout church history. In many cases, entire towns were shut down and all evil businesses run out when the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ came to town! Beware, **lest you forget God and what He has done** (Deut 4:9, 23; 6:12; Ps 106:21) and allow the evil from this world into your life!! **Repent, and do the first works!!**

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.
✓ Have you **believed God's words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
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Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History:

"No one can know the true grace of God who has not first known the fear of God."

– A.W. Tozer (1897-1963; American Christian pastor, preacher and author)

"If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?"

– David Livingstone (1813-1873; Scottish doctor and missionary to Africa)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 19:21-41 – Ephesus (Part 4): The Gospel versus the "great" Diana and her church!

NOTES

PREACHING NOTES

1. Paul **sent two** of his team **to Macedonia** while **he stayed at Ephesus** – and at the same time there arose **no SMALL stir** about **that way** which opposed **the great Diana**. 19:21-28

- ✓ Paul **purposed in the spirit** to visit the churches in **Macedonia** (Philippi/Corinth), to go to **Jerusalem** and to see **Rome** and so he sent Timotheus and Erastus...
Romans 1:11; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Romans 16:23; 2 Timothy 4:20
- ✓ Demetrius the silversmith was motivated by **the love of money** and fear of losing his profits...
Acts 16:19; Hosea 4:8; 12:7-8; 1 Timothy 6:10; 2 Peter 2:3; Revelation 18:3, 11-19
- ✓ Demetrius' accusation was that Paul had **persuaded and turned away much people**, saying **they be no gods which are made with hands...**
Exodus 20:1-6; Acts 14:15; 17:29; Psalm 115:4-8; 135:15-18; Isaiah 44:10-20; 46:5-8; Jeremiah 10:3-5, 11, 14, 15; 1 Corinthians 10:19-20; 12:2; Galatians 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10
- ✓ Demetrius said that the **temple** of the **great goddess Diana** was **magnificent** and that **all Asia** and **the world worshipped her...**
Revelation 13:1-10; 17:1-18

NOTE Oh what insight we receive in this passage from the holy Book of God related to false religion and the profits that are had when those who are deceived and trapped in it are pillaged by greedy, covetous men for filthy lucre's sake. There is no mistaking what Paul was **saying** and **doing** in Ephesus as he opposed the great goddess Diana and her false religious "machine" in public and private. The great temple of Diana was built outside the city walls and was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world (a.k.a. the temple of Artemis). It was the work of 220 years, was built of shining marble, was 342 feet long and 164 feet broad, was made up of numerous columns each 56 feet high, and had a sacred museum of painting and sculpture masterpieces. At the center hidden behind curtains stood the ancient **image** of the goddess reputed to have **fallen from the sky** (most likely a meteor). Behind the shrine was a treasury said to be "the safest bank of Asia" where nations and kings stored precious investments. Do not be fooled – the Bible says that all Asia **and the world worshipped Diana**. For Bible believers, we make an eerie connection between Diana and **the woman** who rides **the beast** in Revelation 17. The woman Jezebel is the false religious system of Satan and Antichrist!! In Rev 13:3 the Bible says, "and all the world wondered after the beast." And in 13:8 the Bible says, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life..." **BEWARE!!**

2. The **whole city** of Ephesus was filled with **CONFUSION** as **emotions were stirred** by Demetrius so that **all with one voice** cried out for **two hours** before dismissing. 19:29-41

- ✓ The whole city was **filled with confusion** as the craftsmen cried out saying, "Great is Diana"... 1 Corinthians 14:33; Psalm 35:4, 26; 71:1; 109:29; Isaiah 30:3; 41:29; 45:16; Jer 3:25; 7:19; Jas 3:16
- ✓ Paul was given **counsel** by certain of **the chief of Asia** (his friends) **not to enter the theatre...** Acts 19:10; Proverbs 16:7; 11:14; 15:22; 24:6
- ✓ The townclerk said that **the city** of the Ephesians was **a worshipper** of the great goddess Diana, and of **the image** which fell down from Jupiter... Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 17:1-6, 18; 18:10, 21; Daniel 9:27; 12:11; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14;
- ✓ The townclerk called **the temple** of Diana **a church** – and **God preserved it for us** in the Bible... Acts 19:37; Psalm 12:6-7; Proverbs 30:5

NOTE Oh how the devil likes to stir up emotions to oppose God and His work!! In this passage, we see the "crowd mentality" in full view and how people can get so excited about a cause (usually opposing something right or Biblical) and have no clue what is going on. In this case, the Bible says that most of the crowd did not even know why they were assembled – now that is CONFUSION!! It is important in this passage to pay attention to EVERY WORD OF GOD. And, remember there are 3 basic applications of scripture – Historical, Prophet and Devotional (taken from How to Study the Bible). Prophetically, in 313 AD, we learned in Church History that the Roman emperor Constantine was said to have a "conversion experience" to Christianity. He chose to use religion as his means to unite the Roman Empire. As a result, we learned that he transformed pagan Rome into **papal Rome** by renaming all of the pagan rituals and images as "Christian" and changed the temples of worship of the pagan gods into churches. It is a historical fact that the images of Diana and her temples were changed to be declared images of **Mary** and Roman **churches**. Only in the Authorized Version do we see that Diana worship was occurring in places called "churches" in Ephesus. When we simply believe the Bible and trust **every one** of God's **words** to be true, we as common people can learn things that are often overlooked in Bible colleges and seminaries and in scholarly religious circles. Prophetically, during the Tribulation Period, the Bible says that the woman who rides the beast is the false religious system of Satan and Antichrist. She is the one-world religion of the Antichrist. And, when we go out into the world to find the worship of Diana, we now know that we should not be looking in temples, but in **CHURCHES!!** And, as uncomfortable as it may be to think through this Biblical reality, **we must conclude** that the worship of Diana **still goes on to this day** in places called "churches" with images called "Mary" within the Roman Catholic Church and other false religions and cults. Make no mistake; we love the people that are found in the Roman Catholic Church. That being said, we must agree with our Lord Jesus Christ – the Word of God – and **hate every false way** (Psalm 119:104, 128). The Roman Catholic Church is a false religion. It is not Biblical and its teachings are sending countless hundreds of millions of people to what the Bible calls a literal place called hell (Prov 5:5, 6, 7:27).

PERSONAL APPLICATION

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2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?

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