

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY (1)
Acts 19

Introduction:

1. The apostle Paul was an intrepid emissary of the Gospel of Christ.
 - a. No area was too remote, no road too rugged, no distance too far, no sacrifice too great to prevent his going with the Gospel.
 - b. Only death finally put an end to his unceasing efforts.
 - c. Perhaps this is the reason the Holy Spirit chose to highlight Paul's work rather than that of one of the other apostles?
2. Paul's third missionary journey ended with his imprisonment in Rome.
3. Most of Paul's time on the third journey was spent in Ephesus.

Discussion:

- I. PAUL CAME TO EPHEBUS (1-10).
 - A. Ephesus was the capital of the Roman province of Asia.
 1. The city was founded 1500 years before Paul's time.
 2. A thousand years before his arrival, Greeks from Athens had moved there.
 3. Ephesus was annexed to the Roman Empire in 133 B.C.
 4. In Paul's day the city had a population of half a million.
 - B. Ephesus was the chief center of worship for Diana (Artemis), goddess of the hunt.
 1. The temple of Diana was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.
 2. It burned on the night of Alexander's birth (356 B.C.) but was immediately rebuilt.
 3. Ephesus was also known for its amphitheatre which seated 25,000.
 - C. Paul found twelve disciples in Ephesus.
 1. Since Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos are not mentioned, we assume they had moved on.
 2. Paul asked the disciples: "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"
 3. They had not heard of the coming of the Spirit on Pentecost.
 - a. Therefore, they could not have known of the founding of the church.
 - b. Neither could they have known the baptism of the Great Commission which came into effect on Pentecost.

- c. They had received John's baptism.
 - 4. The fact that Paul asked them about baptism shows it is not enough to be baptized, but one must be baptized correctly; one cannot be taught wrong and baptized right.
 - 5. John's baptism was "out of date."
 - a. It was immersion (John 3:23).
 - b. It was for remission of sins (Mark 1:4).
 - c. It was to prepare a people for the Lord (Mark 1:2,3).
 - d. It was directed to Israel only.
 - 6. Paul baptized them by the authority of Jesus Christ.
 - 7. He then lay hands on them to give them miraculous gifts.
- D. Paul preached in the synagogue as was his custom.
 - 1. He soon met opposition from the unbelieving Jews.
 - 2. He began meeting with the believers in the school of Tyrannus.
 - 3. Here he taught the Gospel daily for two years.
 - 4. The Word soon spread to all of Asia.

II. GOD WORKED MIRACLES BY THE HAND OF PAUL (11-20).

- A. The purpose of miracles was to confirm the Gospel message (Mark 16:20).
- B. God worked "unusual miracles" through Paul.
 - 1. Handkerchiefs or aprons which had touched Paul healed people of demons and diseases (cf. Matt. 9:20-22).
 - 2. Jewish exorcists decided to invoke the names of Jesus and Paul to exorcise a demon.
 - 3. The demon in the man said: "Jesus I know and Paul I know, but who are you?"
 - 4. The man then overpowered the seven sons of Sceva so that they fled wounded and naked.
 - 5. The name of Jesus was magnified when this was known.
 - 6. Many of the believers feared and truly repented that day.
 - a. They burned their books of magic worth 50,000 pieces of silver.
 - b. We must give up anything which stands between us and the Lord.

III. IDOLATERS AND IDOL-MAKERS STAGED A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE WAY (21-41).

- A. Paul, through the Spirit's guidance, was planning to leave Ephesus.
 - 1. He wanted to visit the churches of Macedonia.
 - 2. After that, he sought to go to Jerusalem.

3. He planned to go on to Rome and Spain (Rom. 15:22-25).
- B. The silversmiths of Ephesus were suffering a recession.**
1. They made their living selling images of Diana.
 2. So many in Asia had become Christians their trade had greatly declined.
 3. Where Christ prevails, clubs will close, bars will become bankrupt, gambling will dry up and houses of ill repute will close.
 4. Demetrius led the demonstration against the Way.
 5. The mob cried out for two hours, "Great is Diana is of the Ephesians!"
 6. Some of the brethren were dragged to the theatre.
 7. Paul was ready to go in to address the mob.
 - a. The brethren wisely would not permit him to go.
 - b. City officials begged him not to risk his life by going in among the mob.
 8. Finally, the city clerk was able to quiet the rioters.
 - a. They had dragged men in who were not guilty of any crime.
 - b. If they had a grievance, the courts were open.
 - c. They were liable to give account for the uproar.
 - d. He then dismissed the people and sent them home.
 9. Paul made his departure from Ephesus.

Conclusion:

1. The church at Ephesus was blessed by being the recipient of two inspired letters:
 - a. They received the epistle to the Ephesians from Paul (Eph. 1:1).
 - b. They later received the letters to the seven churches of Asia from John (Rev. 2:1-7).
2. The church at Ephesus was privileged to have two apostles live and labor among them:
 - a. Paul established the church and lived there 2 - 3 years.
 - b. John made his home there after the fall of Jerusalem for the last 25 - 30 years of his life.
3. The Ephesians were saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8).
 - a. They heard the Gospel, believed, repented and were baptized into Christ (Acts 19:5,19).
 - b. We are saved in the very same way today.

