Paul in Ephesus Part 2

[Text: Acts 19:8-20]

### Acts 19:8-10

Having completed his business in Judea and Syria, Paul came back to Ephesus and resumed his synagogue discourse as he had promised.

*(1 Cor 16:9).* It is not difficult to guess who his adversaries could be.

One of the lessons from Acts is that excellent ministry always meets exceptional opposition.

Paul took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus (not much is known about Tyrannus)

We know from Acts 20:34 that Paul continued his tent-making in Ephesus.

Daily meetings with the Gentiles for two years? Really necessary?

The province of Asia refers to Asia Minor or modern-day Turkey. Perhaps the seven churches of Asia mentioned in the Book of Revelation were also founded about this time.

Does our commitment to evangelism suggest that the gospel is our greatest treasure?

### Acts 19:11-20

Luke describes the miracles as “extraordinary” (v.11). The Greek word *‘tychousas’* translated extraordinary literally means “singular” or “unusual”. The miracles were even beyond the standards of Paul’s powerful ministry.

We are not to assume miracles as typical and normal in ministry. Other than Stephen and Philip, who worked closely under the apostles, there are no miracles recorded as performed by anyone other than the apostles.

These miracles were signs of the apostles (2 Cor 12:12).

The *“handkerchiefs”* were actually sweat-cloths that Paul tied around his head to keep the sweat from dripping into his eyes as he worked. The *“aprons”* were his work aprons.

Acs 19:11 is like Acts 2:22.

It was to the Church at Ephesus Paul wrote: *Put on the whole armor of God . . . (Eph. 6:11,12)*

Luke calls Sceva the father of the seven exorcists, a Jewish chief priest (19:14). So either Sceva was a member of a high priestly family, or, more likely, he took the title for himself to impress his clientele. If one spell or incantation didn’t work, the exorcists would try another one. So they wanted to try out Paul’s Jesus “method.”

They failed to realise, however, that Christ’s power cannot be accessed by reciting his name like a magic charm. They were playing with powers greater than they realized.Beware of thinking that you can control God by your clever prayers or by precisely following man-made schemes.

Paul could have decided that doing miracles drew bigger crowds than preaching the gospel and teaching God’s Word. But he did not. Rather, *“the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing”*

Rom. 1:16, 1 Cor. 1:18. We should stay focused on preaching God’s Word and the gospel, rather than get distracted by signs and wonders.

Genuine repentance of the Ephesians who were secretly holding on to their old occult practices, just in case Jesus “didn’t work” for them! But now they went public, confessing and disclosing their sinful practices. True repentance requires turning from our sin and taking the necessary steps so that we don’t go back to it again.