

Journey Through Acts
“The Lord Will Prevail”
Acts 19:8-20

Introduction:

1. Lets Go Back In Our Bibles Tonight:
 - To Acts 19 - As We Continue:
 - Our ***Journey Through Acts***:
 - And - Especially - On The Recent Missionary Journeys:
 - Of The Apostle Paul!
 - We Are Now With Him On His Third Missionary Journey!
 - Last Week - We Learned How:
 - Both A Man Named Apollos, As Well As Paul:
 - **Visited The City Of Ephesus:**
 - Which Is Today Near The City Of Izmir:
 - In Western Turkey!
2. Well - Our Story Tonight:
 - Continues With Paul In Ephesus:
 - Where He Will Stay:
 - For A Period Of Three Full Years!
 - And 19:8-20 Gives Us A Couple Of Events That Help Explain What Paul Meant When He Wrote To The Corinthian Church From Ephesus In 1 Corinthians 10:9:
 - “For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries!”
 - So - We Will Read About:
 - Both Tremendous Opportunities:
 - As Well As Challenging Adversaries:
 - **There In Ephesus!**
 - So - Beginning In 19:8 - We Read:
 - “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. / 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!”
3. The Key To This Passage:
 - Is That Last Verse - Where Luke Again Records:
 - “So – Or – In These Ways & By These Means – Mightily Grew The Word Of God And Prevailed!”
 - All The Verses We Read Before This Verse:
 - Illustrate For Us Just **How**:
 - The Lord & His Word Prevailed There In That Ancient, Pagan City Of Ephesus!
 - So - Tonight - I Would Like Us To See:
 - **How** - The Lord Prevailed Back Then:
 - And **How** - The Lord Will Prevail Today!
 - The Lord Prevails & Demonstrates The Power Of His Work & His Word:
 - In Both Ordinary & Extraordinary Ways!

* During The First Two Years Of Paul's Stay In Ephesus - We See The Prevailing Power Of The Lord & His Word:

1. Through The Ordinary!

- Which Is What We Find Back In:
 - 19:8-10 - Which Is Through:
 - The Common & Ordinary Ministry:
 - Of Paul And The Church!
 - The Kind Of Common & Ordinary Ministry That We Are Familiar With!
 - This Ordinary Ministry Included:
- The Seeking Of The Lost!
 - This Is What Paul Did During The First Three Months:
 - There In Ephesus!
 - According To 19:8 - "He went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God!"
 - As Was Paul's Custom:
 - He First Sought After The "Lost Sheep The House Of Israel!"
 - Paul Sought To Convince The Jews That Jesus Was Their Messiah!
 - But - As Was Also The Custom:
 - Tragically - Most Of Those "Lost Sheep" Were:
 - According To 19:9 - "Hardened, And Believed Not!"
 - That Is - They Did Not Obey The Gospel Call To Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ To Be Saved!
 - But - That Led To Another Aspect Of Paul's Ordinary Ministry - And That Was The:
- The Separation Of The Disciples!
 - Those Who Did Obey & Believe In The Gospel:
 - Were "Separated" - So That They Could:
 - Grow In The Grace & The Knowledge Of The Lord Together!
 - And This Has Been What God's People Have Been Called To Do, Ever Since The Ministry Of Jesus Himself!
 - In Matthew 20:17 - As Well As In Other Places:
 - We Are Told That "Jesus – took the twelve disciples apart in the way" – To Speak To Them!
 - This Is What The Early Church Did As Well, When They "Separated" Themselves For A Time - In The Upper Room & In Other Places - So They Could:
 - 2:42 - "Continue stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers!"
 - They Needed That Time - And We Still Need That Time:
 - To "Separate" Ourselves - In Order To:
 - Worship Together & Pray Together & Learn Together!
 - The Fellowship Of The Church - "Separated" From The World Around Us For A Time:
 - Is Part Of The Ordinary Ministry:
 - That God Uses In Our Growth!
 - But - It Is Also How God Prepares & Equips Us - For:
- The Sending Of The Faithful!
 - Because - During That Two Year Period Of Time:
 - God Used The Ordinary Ministry Of The Church - 19:10b - "So that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks!"
 - Because Ephesus Was The Capital Of The Province Of Asia:
 - People From All Over The World Went There!
- And So - Many Who Came **To** Ephesus Were Saved:
 - And Then - Many Who Were **From** Ephesus:
 - Were Sent!
 - This Is Probably The Same Time When The Seven Churches Of Asia Were Founded:
 - As Well As The Church In The City Of Colosse!
- And So - Paul And The Other Disciples:
 - Were Faithful In The Ordinary Ministry:
 - Of The Church - Day By Day / Week By Week:
 - Month By Month - For Two Years!
 - And The Result:

- Was That The Word Of The Lord:
 - Prevailed!
- Again - 19:10b - “So that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks!”
- This Is Still What We Are Called To Do:
 - As Christians & As A Church!
 - To Attend To:
 - The Ordinary Ministry That God Has Given To Us As A Church!
 - To Be Faithful - And To - “Continue stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers!”
 - Because - The Lord & His Word Will Prevail!
 - But - As We See In The Rest Of These Verses:
 - God Can & Still Does:
 - “Move In Mysterious Ways, His Wonders To Perform!” (William Cowper)

* And So - At Times - The Lord May Choose To Prevail:

2. ***Through The Extraordinary!***

- Now - Beginning In 8:11 - It Is Interesting To Note:
 - A Transition - Because:
 - In 8:8-10 - Paul & The Disciples:
 - Are Very Active!
 - Seeking The Lost!
 - Separating The Disciples! And:
 - Sending The Faithful!
 - But - In 8:11-20 - Paul & The Disciples:
 - Are More Passive!
 - And The Work & The Word Of The Lord Prevails Exclusively:
 - Through His Own Power!
 - And So - In 8:11-13 - God Works:
 - Through An Extraordinary Miracle!
 - Even Though - In 8:11 - We Are Told That:
 - “God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul!”
 - Yet - The Miracles Mentioned In 8:12-13 Were Accomplished Apart From The Presence Of Paul Himself!
 - God Was Able To Use:
 - Even The Sweat-Rags & Aprons:
 - That Paul Used In His Work As A Tent-Maker:
 - To Heal The Sick & To Cast Out Evil Spirits!
 - This Would Have Been A Remarkable Thing:
 - For That Very Superstitious City:
 - That Was Steeped In Witchcraft & Black Magic!
 - And Even Some Jews There In Ephesus Were Envious Of The Power They Perceived In Paul!
 - But - It Wasn’t The Power Of Paul At All!
 - It Was The Power Of The Lord!
 - 19:11 - It Was “God” Who “Wrought” Those “Special Miracles!”
 - At Times - God Will Work:
 - In This Extraordinary Kind Of Way!
 - But It Remains His Work!
 - Then - In 8:14-17 - God Works:
 - Through An Extraordinary Means!
 - Even Through A Devil!
 - 19:14 Describes Just How Low The Jews There In Ephesus Had Fallen:
 - From The Truth And The Faith Of Their Fathers!
 - “And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so!”
 - The Jews Sought To:
 - Prevail Against The Devil:

- By Using The Name Of Jesus:
 - As Just Another Magical Spell Or Incantation!
- But They Were About To Learn That:
 - His Name Was No Game!
- Because - It Was The Devil:
 - Who Prevailed Against Them:
 - When He - 19:16 - “Leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded!”
 - This Devil Didn’t Want The Lord To Get Any Credit At All!
 - So - Instead Of Listening To Those Jews, Who, In Reality, Were His Allies:
 - He Leaped Upon Them & Discredited Them!
- So That - In The End:
 - It Was The Lord Who Prevailed:
 - Against Them Both!
 - Because - 19:17 - “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!”
- But - Where Was Paul In All Of This?
 - Not Sure - But He Remained Faithful:
 - To The Ordinary Ministry:
 - God Had Given Him!
 - And Then - In 8:18-20 - God Continues His Work:
 - Through An Extraordinary Might!
 - By Demonstrating His Power:
 - To Change & To Transform:
 - His People!
 - In 19:18-19 - “And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. / 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!”
 - These Were Not New Believers:
 - But Existing Believers - They Were Already Part Of The Church!
 - But - They Were Holding Something Back!
 - But Through His Extraordinary Might:
 - God Brought Them To:
 - Fuller Confession & Consecration:
 - To The Lord!
 - They “Surrendered All” To The Lord:
 - Even Though It Would Cost Them Something!

Conclusion:

1. And What Was The Result?
 - 19:20 - “So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed!”
 - In These Ways:
 - The Word Of God:
 - And The Work Of God:
 - Grew Mightily & Prevailed!
 - Through The Ordinary Ministry:
 - Of God’s People - As Well As:
 - Through The Extraordinary:
 - Might:
 - Of The Lord!
2. So - How Are We To See:
 - The Prevailing Power Of The Lord Today?
 - First - Through Faithfulness:
 - In Your Own Work & Ministries:
 - As Ordinary & As Common As They Seem To Be!
 - Are You Striving To Be Faithful:
 - In The Work & Opportunities That God Has Given You?

- But Then - You Need To Be At Rest With:
 - And Have Faith In:
 - The Lord & His Extraordinary Work:
 - Which He Alone Can Do:
 - And Often Does Behind The Scenes & Beyond Our Comprehension!
 - As One Preacher Said It This Weekend:
 - “The Lord Does The Heavy Lifting!”
- 3. So - Be Faithful In The Ordinary Work Of God:
 - That He Has Given You:
 - And Have Faith In The Extraordinary Work Of God:
 - That He Does Apart From You!
- 4. Because It Is In These Ways:
 - That The Lord & His Work & His Word:
 - Will Still Prevail!

***Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***