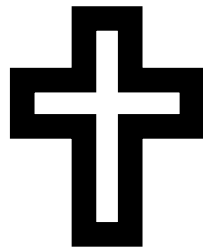


Twelve Lessons

on

Acts III
(Chapters 19-28)

Compiled and Written
by
Ronnie Simpson, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.



Macedonia Baptist College
9722 Hwy 601
Midland, NC 28107
(704) 784-4200

\$6.00

CONTENTS

1. THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY BEGINS AT EPHEBUS -- Acts 19:8-223

2. EPHEBUS AND EUTYCHUS -- Acts 19:23-Acts 20:125

3. PAUL’S FAREWELL ADDRESS -- Acts 20:13-387

4. PAUL’S INSISTENCE TO GO TO JERUSALEM -- Acts 21:19

5. PAUL’S MESSAGE ON LORDSHIP -- Acts 22:1-3011

6. THE POWER OF THE RISEN CHRIST -- Acts 23:1-3513

7. THE COURAGEOUS PRISONER -- Acts 24:1-2715

8. PAUL’S EXPERIENCE AND EXAMPLES -- Acts 25:1-27; 26:1-3217

9. STORMS, SALVATION, AND SCRIPTURE -- PART I -- Acts 2719

10. STORMS, SALVATION, AND SCRIPTURE -- PART II -- Acts 2721

11. STORMS, SALVATION, AND SCRIPTURE -- PART III -- Acts 2725

12. STORMS, STICKS, AND SNAKES -- Acts 28:1-627

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the author.

THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY BEGINS AT EPHEBUS -- LESSON 1

Acts 19:8-22

Introduction: The third missionary journey of Paul actually begins in the preceding chapter at verse 23 when he left Antioch. This third missionary journey is almost a duplication of Pentecost. Notice the similarity:

1. There were 12 men that were saved, filled with the Holy Spirit and spake with “tongues (languages) and prophesied (preached).”
2. The rejection of the gospel by many; the reception by the multitudes. (Vs. 20)
3. There were lives transformed by the power of the Spirit. (Verses 17-19)
4. There was the usual accompaniment of miracles. (Verses 11-12)

God worked in this Asian capital as He did in the Jewish capital in Acts chapter 2.

I. SIESTA CONFERENCES--Acts 19:8-10

A. Determination of Paul--3 months

1. Disputing-- “face to face confrontation.”
2. Persuading-- “convincing by speech and influencing by life.”

B. Denial of Paul--Emphasized three ways

1. Hardened-- “Hardening is deliberate denial in the face of convincing and irrefutable evidence of the power and purposes of God.”
2. Believed not
3. Spake evil of that way--the evidence of their unbelief is revealed by their speech and is a significant word used in Matthew 15:4 to warn that cursing one’s father or mother puts a person in danger of death.

C. Departure of Paul

1. Scripture--Not to cast our pearls before the swine
2. Separation--Instructed His disciples not to associate with them

D. Desire of Paul

1. Disputing Daily
2. Determination--The school of Tyrannus was a school conducted during the middle of the day, probably for two or three hours. Paul, took this time, and in the middle of the day preached the Word of God. Paul did not wait around for an open door, he opened the door during siesta time.

C. Dispensing of Paul

1. Door--I Cor. 16:7-9, Paul wrote, *“For I will not see you now by the way; but I trust to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit. But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.”*
2. Degree--During this time everyone in the province of Asia heard the gospel. It was during this time that the seven churches of Asia Minor came into existence (Rev. 2-3). This may have been where Paul had his greatest ministry.

II. SWEAT CLOTHS--Acts 19:11-12

A. Apostolic Power-- *“And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul.”*

1. *“Miracle”*-- “dunamis”--Same word as used in *“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation.”*--Romans 1:16
2. Paul was exercising the gifts of an apostle.
3. Because of the “many adversaries”, God granted some special powers to Paul.

B. Admonishing Perspiration--Vs. 12-- *“So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons...”* Making tents in the morning and preaching from 11 unto 2 with his “sweat cloths” on him.

1. Cloths
 - a. They were cloths that Paul used to wipe sweat while he was making tents.
 - b. Dirty, stinking sweat cloths.
2. Censure
 - a. There were mystery religions which used “white” garments and emphasized that everything “must” be very clean and white.
 - b. God rebuked that false doctrine by using dirty sweaty cloths to heal diseased and demon-possessed people.
 - c. What a rebuke to these modern day charlatans who would blaspheme by selling a little handkerchief and claim there is power in it. Ask someone next time, if their “prayer cloth” was dirty and sweaty.

III. SATANIC COPYISTS--Acts 19:13-19

A. The Duplicators--Vs. 13-14

1. Lost
 - a. Vagabond Jews--No homeland
 - b. Exorcists--Satan casting out Satan--No such thing as a "Christian exorcist." (see book on Angels)
2. Language-- "*We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.*" Like a lot of Religious lost people they know the language but do not know the Lord.
3. Legacy--Vs. 14-- "*And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.*"
 - a. Raised in religion but did not know God.

B. The Dangers--Vs. 14-16

1. The Perception of Demons-- "*Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?*"
 - a. "*Jesus I know*" is "ginosko" and means an experiential knowledge not a saving knowledge. "*Paul I know*" is "epistomai" and means a knowledge learned by watching and studying. These demons had been "watching" Paul.
 - b. These demons have more knowledge than some Seminary professors who discount the deity of Jesus.
 - c. James said, "believe and tremble." They have a "shaking" faith but no "saving" faith.
2. The Power of Demons
 - a. They can talk through people--Vs. 15
 - b. They can possess people--Vs. 16-- "*And the man in whom the evil spirit was...*"
 - c. They can control the strength of a person--Vs. 16
 - (1) They caused the man to "leap" on them.
 - (2) They caused the man to "overpower" them. One man against seven men.
 - (3) They can cause people to inflict others. He stripped these seven men and wounded them.

C. The Deliverance--Vs. 17

1. Satan's Defeat is a Mighty Message

- a. It was Known
- b. It brought Fear
- c. It magnified the Lord

2. Salvation is a Mighty Miracle

- a. It brings Confession--There was an outward confession of sins. "*Faith without works is dead.*"
- b. It brings Consecration
 - (1) They burned everything that hindered (Vs. 18). Note: The word "curious arts" is the same word for "busybodies" in I Tim. 5:13 and it means to "meddle" or "to step over the bounds" God has set in His word about Witchcraft and the Occult. "Burning" the books removed mediums a demon could use.
 - (2) They brought everything that helped (Vs. 19).
- c. It brings Command
 - (1) There was Command in the growth of the Word. "So" means the Word outlasted all attacks.
 - (2) There was Command in the power of the Word. It "prevailed", could not be stopped.

3. Service is a Mighty Motive--Vs. 21--This is not a vacationist "must" but a Missionary "must", "a call."

- a. Some were needed in Macedonia--Vs. 22-- "*Timotheus and Erastus*"--Somebody "must" go there.
- b. Some were needed in Asia--Vs. 22-- "*...he himself stayed in Asia for a season.*" I "must" stay here.
- c. Some were needed in Jerusalem, Achaia, and Rome. Point--Not enough help. Somebody "must" go.

D. The Delay--Vs. 23-- "*And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.*"

1. Paul's intention was to go to Rome on this missionary journey (Vs. 21).
2. But there was a delay.
 - a. "*No small stir*"
 - b. "*About that way*"--At this time Christianity had no name for the churches, certainly no religious label.
 - c. Christianity was called "the way." Christianity was Jesus who said, "*...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" (John 14:6)

Conclusion: What can we learn by this lesson?

1. Many times we will have to "improvise" like Paul did during this "siesta time" to preach the gospel.
2. Many times there will be "impostors" like the seven sons of Sceva.
3. Many times God will "intervene" and take Satan's work and get glory out of it.