

Acts: 19: 17-19: The Beginning of Ephesus

Context: Paul had been preaching in Ephesus for a little more than 2 years. The church was experiencing some growth but the gospel had not made a huge dent. The power of God is contrasted by what Paul is doing and the Jewish exorcists who use the name of Jesus as a business practice.

Life Principle: Jesus is not a business practice to be used, but is the radiance of God who deserves our worship above all else. (Hebrews 1:3-4)

1. **The people recognized the character and nature of God (v.17).** The people heard what happened with the demon possessed man and knew the preachings of Paul and Apollos (Acts 18). They recognized the severity of God and His power leading them to a fear of God and exultation of Jesus Christ.
1. **The fear of God lead to a culture of confession (v.18).** Those, who truly believed the message of the apostles and had a deeper understanding of who God is, were able to confess their sins and make known their way of life (habitual sins). Coming clean about our sins to one another will aid in our sanctification (James 5:16).
3. **The people gave up their idols (v. 19).** They realized that serving God meant letting go of the things they loved the most. When we approach God, there may be things that He will ask us to give up before He works (Ez 14).

Bible Study Tools

Think about what you believe to be true about God. Look at the GracePoint doctrinal statement and see what the church believes weighing it against the scriptures mentioned. What does the Gospel reveal about God (focus on the fall of man and the cross of Christ)?

What does it mean to confess our sins to one another?

<http://www.blueletterbible.org/Search/Dictionary/viewTopic.cfm?type=getTopic&Topic=Confess%2C+Confession&DictID=9#Vines>

In Ephesians 5, we are told that light exposes darkness. How does this relate to Acts 19 when the Ephesian church experienced its greatest growth? How can this relate to us?

Transformation Exercise:

Meditate on what the Ephesian experience says about the character and nature of God. How has God revealed His nature to you? Share this with someone throughout the next week.

