



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Paul Verses the Fakes in the Capital

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Pastor David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Acts 19:11-20 *And God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12) so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. 13) But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14) And seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15) And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" 16) And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17) And this became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified. 18) Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. 19) And many of those who practiced magic brought their books and began burning them in the sight of all; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20) So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.* (NASB)

Why the extraordinary miracles by Paul at Ephesus? Are there any miraculous healings by handkerchiefs anywhere else in Scripture? Do these traveling exorcists even begin with a false claim? Were these fakes eventually clearly identified? How difficult is it to overpower seven blood brothers together? Were the demons more honest than Paul's other opposition in Ephesus? Why did they burn these occult books? How much did they cost? What are the bookends of this paragraph?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > APRIL 24-26: ACTS 19:21-29 **LEADERS WHO RISKED THEIR LIVES WITH PAUL**
- > MAY 1-3: ACTS 19:30-41 **THE CAREFULLY CRAFTED RIOT AT THE CAPITAL**

With the darkness of Diana and the magnificent, marbled idolatrous temple, as well as her worship as the official religion of Ephesus, there came the dark accompaniment of all idolatry—demonic power. Ephesus was especially a capital of black arts, séances, occult incantations, spells, charlatan exorcists, satanic rituals, superstition, demon possession, sorcery, enchantments, witchcraft, and all the barbaric practices that flow from such satanic worship. Thus, this capital became a battlefield between the forces of evil and Paul preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"EPHESUS WAS A STRONGHOLD OF SATAN. HERE MANY EVIL THINGS BOTH SUPERSTITIOUS AND SATANIC WERE PRACTISED. BOOKS CONTAINING FORMULA FOR SORCERY AND OTHER UNGODLY AND FORBIDDEN ARTS WERE PLENTIFUL IN THAT CITY. THE JEWS THEMSELVES WERE CONTAMINATED WITH THESE EVIL PRACTICES."

ARNO GAEBELEIN

I. THE POWER OF DELIVERANCE ACTS 19:11-12

The gospel that Paul preached was first and foremost about repentance from sin through the finished work of Jesus Christ whereby we are freely forgiven through His

"THE RESULTANT BURNING OF THE MAGIC SCROLLS OUT OF THE FEAR OF GOD AND THE CONTRASTING HEALTH OF THE WORD OF THE LORD PROVIDE A FURTHER RICH DISTINCTION – THE MAGIC SCROLLS IN ASHES, THE WORD OF GOD SPREADING AND GROWING." DAVID COOK

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 6TH FLOOR SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 6TH FLOOR SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

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death upon the cross in full payment for our sins and then we are given the complete righteousness of Jesus Christ and deliverance from sin through the power of His resurrection. But this deliverance God granted through Paul in Ephesus was not only from the penalty of sin and the power of sin through the gospel, but even a verification of the gospel by a deliverance from the pitiless nature of the curse of sin in the fall resulting in sickness and satanic oppression. A woman whom the doctors could not help had been healed by merely touching the hem of the garment of Christ (Mt. 9:20-22, Mk 5:25-34, Lk 8:43-48) so that all the sick were touching His garment and were completely healed (Mt. 14:34-36). Jesus had said we would do greater things in prayer (Jn. 14:12-14). Thereby, Peter was empowered to heal with his mere shadow (Acts 5:15-16). Now God enabled Paul to fully heal without any presence at all through the “handkerchiefs or aprons” that touched his body and that of the physically afflicted or even the demon possessed!

their sentence to cast the demon out, the enraged demon answered honestly with thick sarcasm at this obvious usurping of authority, “*I recognize Jesus and I know Paul, but who are you?*” Then, with supernatural strength he physically “leaped on” this team of brothers. Notice the words of authority, he “*subdued all of them and overpowered them.*” Shocked at such a merciless mauling “*they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*” The reality of authority sunk in when the showdown became public and “*fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.*” All are either under the authority of Satan and his demons or Jesus Christ as their Lord, and the entire scenario proves that Jesus Christ is ultimately Lord of all! Yet those who use Christ’s name without being his own will suffer much more than the wounded brothers:

“IT IS NOT SO GREAT TO FREE FROM A DEMON AS IT IS TO RESCUE FROM SIN.” CHRYSOSTOM

“MANY WILL SAY TO ME IN THAT DAY, ‘LORD, LORD, HAVE WE NOT PROPHESED IN YOUR NAME, CAST OUT DEMONS IN YOUR NAME, AND DONE MANY WONDERS IN YOUR NAME?’ AND THEN I WILL DECLARE TO THEM, ‘I NEVER KNEW YOU; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’” MATTHEW 7:22-23

II. THE POWER OF DARKNESS ACTS 19:13-17

Knowing the power of the name of Jesus and realizing that Paul was removing demons in the remotest parts of Asia so easily through the power of Christ, this seven-fold band of brothers of traveling “*Jewish exorcists,*” decided to discard their normal mysterious incantations and try what they knew was working. Since the records of high priests never included one named “*Scava,*” then either they were overstating their heritage from a high priestly family, or more likely these frauds made up the title to acquire more business. So these unbelieving Jews, who didn’t know Jesus, decided to fake it. Confronting this demoniac in the house, they attempted to remove the demon by their command, “*I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.*” Evidently, before they could even finish

III. THE POWER OF DISCIPLESHIP ACTS 19:18-20

Paul’s discipleship in Ephesus was having a powerful impact on those in the church and they willingly made a complete cut with their past and their former master, the devil. They “*kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.*” It was believed that an incantation only had power if it was kept secret. So these Christians were publically rendering their past black magic useless by confessing it publically. Then they took the final step with their occult books and “*began burning them in the sight of all.*” A silver piece being a day’s wages meant that the books were worth about \$2,900,000. Paul’s leadership was all about God’s power acquired through His word.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) What is God doing through you to make a difference for His kingdom in your realm of influence?
- 2) Are you under the authority of the devil or have you submitted your life to Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?
- 3) Is the “*word of the Lord growing mightily and prevailing*” in your life and through your leadership?