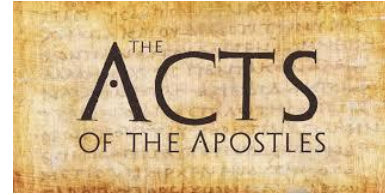


April 17, 2024

The last time together, we met Apollos:
Here is what we took away from our meeting
him.



1. Knowledge is progressive. We learn today and build on it tomorrow.
2. He didn't stay with what his parents or even John had instilled in him, but he went beyond.
3. Priscilla seemed to be the main teacher. Often times, it is not unusual for women to know more than men do; we even see this in our churches today.
4. When you understand and grow in the finished work of Christ, you are inspired and motivated to go deeper with Him and to share the good news.
5. Be like the Bereans, and take responsibility for what you learn and check that those things are true.

That's how you prevent yourself from being deceived by false teachings.

Tonight,

We are going to examine two groups of people:

- One group is for Jesus
- The other group is against Him

And interestingly enough, both groups are wrong.

How can you be for Jesus and be wrong?

Well, let's take a look and see if that's possible.

The first group that is for Him:

Acts 19:11 God was doing some mighty miracles through the Apostle Paul.

God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, v.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.

Have you noticed in life that many times, something of value has a counterfeit?

- Money
- Diamond

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- Painting
- Following Jesus
- Even the Anti-christ

So,

All these miracles are being done through Paul,

v.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."*

I would call this "Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show."

Men who went about the country making money doing exorcisms and some even in the name of Jesus.

How much deception is done today in the name of Jesus? Much deception!

V.14 *Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.*

This phrase brings some doubt with it.

Some say Sceva was not considered a High Priest but perhaps one over a synagogue, yet deposed from Jerusalem.

After all,

He was in Ephesus, not Jerusalem.

And,

His sons had become charlatans, making money on the name of Jesus.

So they attempted to deliver a man from an evil spirit:

v.15 *And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"*

v.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.*

Ha!

The demon knows Jesus (they are not unbelievers)

Mt 8:28 When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. They were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way.

V.29 And they cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"

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James said;

You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. Ja 2:19

The demon knows Paul because Paul is a legitimate follower of Christ.

But,

He doesn't know these guys because they don't belong to Jesus.

v.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.*

So that's the first group that was for Jesus, but they were wrong because they were in it for themselves.

By the way:

v.18 *Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.*

v.19 *And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.*

v.20 *So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.*

The second group:

This group is against Jesus, so they are definitely wrong.

Paul had planned to go to Jerusalem but at this time, he is still in Ephesus.

A silversmith had a business making little silver shrines of the temple to Diana.

Like if you went to Paris and bought a little Eiffel Tower to bring home.

Demetrius represents those who place silver over salvation.

He gathered other craftsmen together and make this speech.

v.25 *these he gathered together with the workmen of similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business.*

He is condemning Paul for turning people away from their idols to

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Christ. But this is going to hurt their business.

v.27 *Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis (Diana), be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence."*

He is saying;

Not only is their business at risk but their whole religion.

And the temple, it was so magnificent.

The building, the idols, the money had all become more important than a relationship with the one, true God.

So a riot broke out against Paul

And for two hours the crowd shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians"

but someone in the crowd was a sane thinker – the town clerk.

He basically said;

These men are not lawbreakers or criminals and if you have a complaint against them, bring it to the court and we will hear it.

Then,

He dismissed the people.

So there are two things we need to look out for, one being more obvious than the other.

1. Those who come in the name of Christ but are not of Christ.
2. Those who are adamantly against Him for the love of money and their religion.

Remember,

You will always be in the minority when it comes to your faith in Christ.

Do not be dismayed, the Lord is with you.