

Bible e-Study on the book of Acts (19: 8-22)

Book Burning in the Bible!

“God did extraordinary miracles through Paul.”

Acts 19: 11

NUGGET – Take note that Luke makes it clear who did the ‘miraclizing’. It wasn’t Paul; it was *God*, through Paul! So oftentimes it’s easy to get caught up in lionizing Paul or Peter or others in scripture that God uses to do extraordinary things. We sometimes focus so much on the person or the personality that we overlook the One who is actually doing the work, granting the miracle or giving the good gifts.

It’s not unlike people in our day who worship creation and not the Creator. I studied geology for a time and had it mind to go to work searching the world for oil. I love geology and the study of various rocks, formations and actions that happen in the crust of the earth. To me it points out the wonder of God’s handiwork. But there are those who become so distracted by the handiwork that they forget or ignore the Hand that did the creating. Like those who worship trees, crystals or the sun, moon and stars without giving thought to the creative Genius behind these wonders.

This nugget phrase, that *God did extraordinary miracles through Paul* is tied to the end of verse 17 which says, *and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor*. The works that God did through Paul were done so that the name of Jesus would be known and lifted up in honor – Jesus, not Paul, not Apollos, not James or Peter either. While the names and faithfulness of the disciples is important, that is not what changes hearts and lives. In between verses 11 and 17 we see the sons of Sceva get thrashed for apparently attempting to act apart from faith in the name of Jesus.

And it is after that when many who had believed came to understand just how potent the name of Jesus is in their lives. It lead to a ‘book-burning’. People came to a further conviction that lead to renewed repentance evidenced by this unique action.

It is something that connects for us too. When we see God in our lives moving events and people that help us or protect us, we also can be renewed in our devotion and wonder toward all that Jesus’ name grants to us. So when we see this burning of the sorcery scrolls it reminds us that Christians have more to learn in their walk of faith and obedience to the word of God.

Even by this action we’re told that, *In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power*. The point being yet again, the results were not focused on the believers, but on the Word of the Lord. Like the miracles God did through Paul, so also through the lives if these believers, it is the name and power of the Lord that is exalted.

APPLICATION -

1. This burning of the sorcery scrolls it challenges us – what have we yet to burn in our lives? What are the compromises with the gospel and its power in our lives have we made and become comfortable with that we would be better off if we burned? What is it that we allow to come between us and the growth of God’s word and the lifting up of Jesus name in our lives?

PRAY – Dear God in heaven above, we bow before You in contrition and sorrow over the things we’ve placed between us and You. For the sake of Jesus’ blood forgive us. Renew and restore to us the awe and wonder that is due Your name and the joy that is ours as You draw us into further obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. . In Jesus name, Amen.