

## *Safety and Money First...or, Integrity and the Truth First*

### **ACTS 19**

#### **Acts 19:1-7**

Mainly Concerned with Paul's work in Ephesus.

Paul stayed in Ephesus approximately three years.

#### Ephesus----

- *The Market of Asia Minor...treasure house of the river valley.*
- *A Great town of pomp and pageantry of Roman power and Roman justice...great cases of justice tried there*
- *Seat of the Pan-Ionian Games*
- *Home of the Criminals...The Temple of Diana possessed the right of asylum.*
- *Center of Pagan superstition...famous for charms and spells*
- *The Temple of Artemis was there... Diana and Artemis were one and the same. Artemis the Greek name...Diana the Latin. One of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Image of Artemis was awful looking...many breasted idol...black...the word was that the image signified "fertility."*

Very immature Christians there....but they were ready when asked if they wanted to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus...They accepted and all (about 12) spoke in tongues when they received the baptism.

#### **Acts 19:8-12**

#### **Interesting Facts:**

- *Paul taught in the hall of a philosopher...Tyrannus.*
- *Work was performed in Ephesus from early morning until 11 a.m. and then after 4 p.m. until dark...because of the heat.*
- *Since Tyrannus worked in the hall at those times, Paul only preached and taught the Word of God from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.*
- *Paul would work at his trade in the normal hours to work and then preach and teach....*

#### **This Teaches Us Three (3) Things:**

1. Paul was eager to teach and preach the Word of God
2. The Christians were eager to learn
3. Many Christians today are "Christians of Convenience."

#### **Acts 19:13-20**

⇒ Sincere and anointed preaching in the name of Jesus...brings healings, acts of miracles and acts of grace.

⇒ Insincere and abuse of the name of Jesus brings acts of confusion, illusion, and disgrace.

- Where Jesus is...things happen to further the Kingdom of God and will show the power of God.
- Where there is pretentious use of Jesus...things happen that will show the power of God...and God will use “all things together for the good of the Kingdom.”

◊ Note: When people get on fire for the Lord, things will be removed that will hinder the growth of God's work.

### Acts 19:23-41

Who are the characters?

- Demetrius and the Silversmiths....they made trinkets and souvenirs of the God...Artemis. Truth is...that their pockets were being touched.
- The “Town Clerk”...he was adamant in trying to settle the crowd... Because the last thing he wanted was a riot under the Roman leadership.
- Paul...wanted to face the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. Paul was a man without fear.

*Lesson in this story...For the silversmith and the town clerk, it was safety first... For Paul it was safety last.*