

REACTION TO THE GOSPEL

Page 1

INTRODUCTION

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- A. TEXT: *"And when they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus."* Acts 19:5; Compare this with vs. 23ff.
- B. SETTING:
1. Completion of Second and Beginning of Third Missionary Journey.
 2. Paul in one area for about 3 years.
 3. Different kinds of error encountered.
 4. Some of the causes
 5. We should learn from their Reaction to the Truth.
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Disciples – John's Baptism

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- A. *"found certain disciples: and he said unto them, Did ye receive the Holy Spirit when ye believed?"* V. 2.
1. They did not know of the Holy Spirit...if the Holy Spirit had been given.
 2. Appear to be "disciples" of Jesus, but only through teaching of John.
- B. *"Into what then were ye baptized?"*
1. When ye believed...=...When ye were baptized.
 2. They knew only John's baptism.
- C. Interesting to note that Paul's first question was about baptism.
1. Why? If it was not important.
 2. Paul relates baptism and becoming a disciple together.
- D. THEIR CONDITION WAS CAUSED BY:
1. Lack of knowledge.
 2. Had not heard the gospel in its entirety.
 3. Did not know.....
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Jew's of the Synagogue

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- A. Paul as was his custom had been going to and preaching in the synagogue.
1. *"And spake boldly for the space of three months, reasoning and persuading as the things concerning the kingdom of God."* v. 8.
 2. To the Jews who should have understood about the kingdom of God.
- B. *"But when some were hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus."* v. 9.
1. The Jews, as in just about every place Paul went, rejected the message and drove out the messenger.
 2. Would not accept the truth, because in meant change in their lives.
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REACTION TO THE GOSPEL

Page 2

Sceva and his seven sons...

A. WHO WERE THEY?

1. "Strolling" or "wandering" Jews. (A group of wandering professional Jewish exorcists, ISBE).
2. "Exorcists" (One who expels demons by the use of magical formulae. From the word "to adjure". ISBE).
 - a. Exorcism among ancient and primitive peoples rests largely upon faith in the power of magical formulas.
 - b. The words themselves are supposed to have power over the demons, and the mere recital of the correct list of names is supposed to be efficacious.
 - c. Remember your "magic" words as a child?
3. Thought if they could use the right name, word, then they like the apostles, could cast out demons.

B. HOW JESUS CAST OUT DEMONS.

1. Mat. 8:16..."with a word" The word was not ritualistic but authoritative.
2. Matt. 9:29 "By prayer"
3. Matt. 12:28 summed up.... "by Spirit of God".

C. MIRACULOUS CURES OF THE SAME KIND WERE ACCOMPLISHED BY HIS DISCIPLES.

1. In His Name...
 2. Not the repeating of the name, but by the **authority He (Jesus) gave!**
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IDOLATRY

B. DIANA or ARTEMIS

1. A goddess, claim to have fallen down from heaven.
2. Was a goddess of fertility, thus many of the acts of the temple were very corrupt. Immoral.
3. Her temple was one of the "wonders" of the ancient world.

C. PAUL HAD BEEN THERE , IN EPHESUS, PREACHING FOR ABOUT 3 YEARS.

1. The effects of the gospel had been great on the people of Ephesus.
2. Now less and less turned to the temple.

REACTION TO THE GOSPEL

Page 3

D. The Silversmiths who led the riots.

1. Their claim...the temple be made of no account...Diana be deposed, their worry was about their idol.
 2. The Truth: *Diana, brought no little business unto the craftsmen* v. 24
again *Sirs ye know that by this business we have our wealth* v. 25.
 3. Thus what is said, is not always what is meant.
 4. Account of the riot, and Paul leaving the city.
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REACTION TO THE TRUTH

NOTE AGAIN the actions of those we have read about.

A. Jew of the synagogue....Drove out Paul.

B. Sceva and sons....tried to use name of Jesus...but seemed to have learned nothing.

1. Who were those who burned their books. (Disciples or non-disciples, just people who feared what they were doing?).
2. Why did they burn their books. (Seems to be the idea of destroying the words formula, etc. you destroy the power, or claimed power.

C. IDOLATERS

1. Silversmiths....led a riot
2. Paul eventually leaves the city.

D. THOSE WHO KNEW ONLY JOHN'S BAPTISM.

1. "*And when they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.* V. 5
 2. There is only one valid baptism today. (Eph. 4:4-6).
 3. Have you been baptized into Christ?
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