

Meanwhile, Back in Ephesus

1. Paul Continues on His Missionary Journey (22-23).

2. We Get This Peek at King Jesus' Work in Ephesus (24-28).

3. All Points to Central Message—Jesus Is the Christ (28).

CONCLUSION: While the focus of this part of Acts is on the missionary activity of Paul and His teammates, we get a behind the scenes glance at how God is using others in establishing His Kingdom in Ephesus. What we find consistently throughout all of King Jesus' work is the emphasis on the Scriptures as God's authoritative Word, His employment of His people working together for His glory, and the centrality of Jesus presented as the promised Christ. How are you celebrating our King's advancing Kingdom? How are you joyfully submitting to His rule and reign using all that He has entrusted to your care?

Luke 9: 1 – 6

And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.” And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

First Corinthians 14: 26 – 33

What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. *For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.*

Hebrews 9: 11 – 12

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Usually when we get a peek behind the curtain we find someone trying to hoodwink us. When the curtain gets pulled back in the Kingdom of Heaven, we find that Jesus is exactly what He claims that He is—the sovereign King of all things. Come take a closer look this week!

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ Acts 18:22-28; Ephesians 4:15-16; First Corinthians 12:12-31; Hebrews 9:11-28. DISCUSS, Who is the primary builder of Christ's Church? Is it Paul, Silas, Apollos, Augustine, Calvin, Billy Graham? How does He employ us in that task? Why? How does that bring you comfort? **PRAY** "Lord Jesus, You alone are faithful. Thank You for faithfully building Your Church."

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at **6:00** pm. *Please come to FCCW's Library!*

Monday

READ Acts 18:22-28; Ephesians 4:15-16; Hebrews 9:11-12. DISCUSS, How did Apollos speak the truth in love? How did Aquila and Priscilla? How do you? How do you communicate what we learn in this passage in Hebrews? To whom? Why? **MEDITATE** on **Ephesians 2:8-10.** **PRAY** "Lord, thank You for being our perfect High Priest."

Tuesday

READ Acts 18:22-28; First Corinthians 12:12-20. DISCUSS: Who is the most important? Who is the least important? What does this mean: "If all were a single member, where would the body be?" **MEDITATE** on **Ephesians 2:8-10.** **PRAY** "Lord, forgive us for ways that neglect to share the gifts You have entrusted to us and for ways we covet the gifts You give to our brothers and sisters in Christ."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 18:22-28; First Corinthians 12:21-26**. DISCUSS, How do you tend to think you don't need others? Why is healthy interdependence impossible without faith in Jesus? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 2:8-10**. PRAY "King Jesus, make us grateful for one another. Forgive us for ways we disregard others. Teach us to walk together in Your ways."

Thursday

READ **Acts 18:22-28; Ephesians 4:17-24; First Corinthians 12:27-31**. DISCUSS, How are our being renewed in the Spirit and working together as Christ's body related? How are you encouraging others in Christ to make use of the gifts God has entrusted to them? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 2:8-10**. PRAY "Jesus, You are so good to us. Help us to work together for Your glory."

Friday

READ **Acts 18:22-28; Ephesians 4:15-16; First Corinthians 12:12-31; Hebrews 9:11-28**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 2:8-10**. PRAY "Lord King, we worship Your name, Jesus, for You alone reign supreme. Thank You for loving us and building Your Church through us."

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 19:1-41**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Ephesians 2: 8 – 10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.