

The Word of the Lord Prevailed **Acts 19:1-20**

Main Point:

Jesus uses His Word to cast out darkness; therefore, never underestimate its power in your life and ministry.

1. There was a lot of darkness in Ephesus, just as there is in Lafayette today.

2. Darkness always needs to be confronted with the light of Christ.

3. There will be a great effect for good when this happens.

4. Never underestimate the power of God's Word in your life and ministry.

Dennis Johnson "Ephesus was a pagan center dominated not only by the idolatry of the Temple of Artemis but also by flourishing magical and spiritualist trades that claimed to be able to control unseen powers."

Simon Kistemaker "Paul instructs the men who had John's baptism not by telling them about the Holy Spirit but by acquainting them with Jesus, the one who came after John. [Because] his objective is that they come to faith in Jesus."

Ephesians 5:8, 11 ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ... ¹¹ ... have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. (NKJV)

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 ¹⁰ "There shall not be found among you *anyone* who ... practices witchcraft, *or* a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹ "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. ¹² "For all who do these things *are* an abomination to the LORD ... (NKJV)

Matthew 5:29 ²⁹ "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. (NKJV)

Derek Thomas "What they did gave evidence of genuine repentance and a desire to turn away from a lifestyle now thought to be evil. It was a demonstration of their devotion to Jesus Christ."

Acts 13:49 ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. (NKJV)

Simon Kistemaker "[Luke] describes the growth of the church by pointing to the powerful influence of God's Word in the lives of the people ... The city of Ephesus experienced a transformation because of the living and powerful Word of God."

Psalms 19:7-9 ⁷ The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. (NKJV)

Martin Luther "I opposed indulgences and all papists, but never by force. I simply taught, preached, wrote God's Word: otherwise I did nothing ... the Word did it all."

Hebrews 4:12 ¹² For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (NKJV)