

Acts, Part 19

Erastus: Servant of God

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered Wed., 9/23/20

Introduction Summary

Following God's perfect will first is the best path for every believer. In this lesson we will see the value of allowing God to use us in our walk of life. In doing so, we can reach far more people for Jesus.

- I. **Acts 19:1-9:** Follow God's perfect will first.
 - A. Paul goes to the Jews, but he's called to the Gentiles.
 - B. In the permissive will of God there are little results.
 - C. In the perfect will of God there are big results.
 - D. After three months, the Jews still would not hear (Mat. 13:15).
- II. **Acts 19:10-12:** God wrought *special miracles* through Paul.
 - A. Why did this happen?
 - B. Paul trusted and obeyed God (Acts 16:5).
 - C. He was in the right place, at the right time, because He obeyed God.
- III. **Acts 19:13-15:** Sceva is chief of the priests.
 - A. It doesn't matter that they are not in your denomination (Mark 9:38-41).
 - B. We're helping the Baptists in California who are standing for the Church.
- IV. **Acts 19:16-19:** The possessed man beat up the seven sons of Sceva. You can't copy someone else. It has to be real to you. Do what God leads *you* to do, not what He led someone else to do.
 - A. Satan wants to possess you, because God gave you authority in the earth.
 - B. God wants to possess you, because He gave you authority in the earth.
 - C. Hitler was possessed by the devil.
 - D. Kicking God out of government, schools, etc., brings chaos.
- V. **Acts 19:20:** Both the *call* and the *time* must coordinate together.
 - A. When you get the call, pray it out in the Holy Ghost.
 - B. There's a time to go and a time to stay.
 - C. Ex: The Lord told me to install one of my staff ministers, Kaye Stramler as pastor of our Jackson, MS church. The Holy Ghost said to lay hands on her and the anointing on me would go on her to pastor. She pastored for five years. Then the Holy Ghost said it was time to change pastors.

VI. **Acts 19:22: Erastus -- Who is he?**

- A. He was the Chamberlain (city treasurer) of Corinth. He received tolls, customs etc. belonging to the city, and out of them paid the public expenses (Rom. 16:23).
- B. Ancient Corinth: Paul came from Athens to Corinth (Acts 18:1).
- C. There is a canal that was very significant to getting commodities thru from east to west and back, rather than go around Achaia or the Peloponnese peninsula. It was a shortcut, four miles wide.
- D. During Paul's time, the city was intensely inhabited. The estimated population was 800,000. This road and canal was called *diolkos*. It was a paved road used for transporting boats by land on a platform (the puller of boats) across the Isthmus of Corinth.
- E. Erastus was a wealthy man (1 Tim. 6:17).
- F. He was elected by the people.
- G. He was expected to provide or build a new project (i.e. road, building etc.).
- H. Successful people were asked to serve the public, and it was an honor.
- I. That's the difference between then and now.
- J. They were expected to leave the city better off than when they arrived.
- K. They were not paid, but rather *they paid* to assist the city.
- L. They were people of proven ability and success who built organizations and gave back, with gratitude. It was not a life-long career.
- M. In Corinth there is a plaque of Erastus.

VII. **Acts 19:22: Erastus assisted Paul in his ministry.**

- A. Erastus funded Paul's trips and served where he needed.
- B. He went to Thessalonica in Macedonia (at least a 188 mile journey) on foot. That's the distance between Detroit, MI and 18 miles past Cleveland, OH.
- C. He helped Paul spread the gospel with all his resources: his experience, prestige, contacts, money, etc.
- D. God wants His professional class, whom he has endowed, to do the same.
- E. It should be in the plan of believers to leave an endowment to the ministry for the continuance of the gospel, after they are gone to heaven.

VIII. **Acts 19:22-24: Diana is the god of the Ephesians.**

IX. **Acts 19:25-27: They make money from people who worship Diana, the god of the Ephesians. Paul's message will hinder their ungodly gain (1 Tim. 6:10).**

- A. Jesus did the same thing in Mark 11:15.
- B. He later taught them the proper use of the temple.

Closing Summary

When we submit our lives to God's perfect will, we will see more and more people turn to God for salvation. That is what pleases Him. He wants us to be about doing our part to see to it that the gospel is preached throughout the whole world.