

Today we will begin the fifteenth lecture on the book of Acts. /We will begin at Acts 18:12.

/Read 18:12. /While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him into court.

/There was a man named Gallio who was proconsul of Achaia. /The Jews attacked Paul and sued him.

/Verse 13. /"This man," they charged, "is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law."

/The Jews claimed that Paul taught things that were "contrary to the law," /and they sued him.

/Verses 14-15. /Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, "If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you. But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law-- settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things."

/Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio spoke. /"If you were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you."

/However, Gallio said that he would not judge questions about words and names and the Jews' own law. /Thus, he meant that he would not deal with matters of religious doctrines.

/Here, "names" refer to names like that of Jesus Christ. /Gallio wanted separation between political and religious issues.

/This is correct judgment. /We must /give to God what is God's, /and to Caesar what is Caesar's.

/Verses 16-17. /So he had them ejected from the court. Then they all turned on Sosthenes the synagogue ruler and beat him in front of the court. But Gallio showed no concern whatever.

/Sosthenes is the synagogue ruler. /The people created chaos and then beat Sosthenes. /Sosthenes was beat in place of Paul. /It is possible that Sosthenes preached alongside Paul. /1 Corinthians 1:1.

/Verse 18. /Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchrea because of a vow he had taken.

/Paul was about to leave for Syria. /Paul took with him Priscilla and Aquila. /Paul took a vow. /He had his hair cut at Cenchrea.

/This shows that Paul was determined to stay devoted to God with all he had. /This was to be like a Nazirite. /Paul did not cut his hair until his vow was completed. /When the vow was completed, Paul cut his hair off. /Numbers 6:1-20. /Judges 13:5.

/Verses 19-22. /They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. But as he left, he promised, "I will come back if it is God's will." Then he set sail from Ephesus. When he landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.

/Paul went to Ephesus. /He left Priscilla and Aquila there. /Then Paul arrived in Caesarea. /Then he traveled to Antioch. /Then Paul went from Corinth to Ephesus.

/Paul went from Ephesus to Caesarea. /He went from Caesarea to Antioch. /Here, Paul concluded his second missionary journey. /Then he returned to Syria Antioch where he was sent off on his missionary journey. /He went and gave a report on what happened.

/Verse 23. /After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

/From verse 23, Paul begins his third missionary journey. /Paul left Antioch and went to preach in the region of Galatia and Phrygia. /The region Galatia and Phrygia are located in Asia Minor.

/Here on the map, this is the region of Galatia.

/Verse 24. /Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.

/There was a man named Apollos. /He was a Jew. /He was a native of Alexandria. /Alexandria is a city located in northern Africa. /Greek culture thrived in the city of Alexandria.

/Rhetoric and studies were popular in Alexandria. /Apollos evangelized in Ephesus. /He was an educated man. /He knew a lot about the Scriptures. /However, Apollos lacked spiritual experience in terms of his faith.

/Verse 25. /He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John.

/Apollos had great fervor in his faith. /Yet, he knew only the baptism of John. /He lacked knowledge about Jesus. /Thus, Apollos knew only about the baptism of John.

/He knew what John the Baptist testified about Jesus. /However, he didn't know the deep truth about Jesus.

/Verse 26. /He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

/Priscilla and Aquila invited Apollos to their home and taught him the way of God. /Priscilla and Aquila received the gospel from Paul. /They learned deeply about the way of redemption of Jesus through Paul.

/Then Priscilla and Aquila taught Apollos. /Hence, Apollos learned the deep truth.

/Verses 27-28. /When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

/Apollos went to Achaia. /Achaia is located in Corinth. /Apollos wanted to go to the church of Corinth. /He took with him letters to the disciples. /Apollos preached vigorously in the church of Corinth.

/Apollos testified to Jesus through the Scriptures. /Therefore, because Apollos knew deeply of the Scriptures, he was able to preach more vigorously. /As a result, the church of Corinth became stronger and firm.

/We must know the Bible and also the deep truth. /We must learn and deeply comprehend. /Then we must teach believers who are still childlike in their faith.

/We will continue with the lecture on Acts 19. /The title is, "Ephesus."

/First, evangelism in Ephesus. /Verses 1-12. /Second, the sorcerers testing and repentance. /Verses 13-20. /Third, the riot in Ephesus. /Verses 21-41.

/Read verses 1-2. /While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

/Paul traveled and preached along the northern region. /He preached in the region of Galatia. /Then Paul arrived in Ephesus. /He continued to preach in Ephesus.

/Paul asked, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" /Paul asked the disciples there, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" /Then they replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

/These people believed in Jesus. /18:25. /Apollos also believed in Jesus. /However, Apollos lacked knowledge about Jesus.

/Therefore, the disciples there believed in Jesus but lacked knowledge about Jesus. /Paul asked, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit?"

/Verse 3. /So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.

/The disciples said that they only received baptism from John. /This means that they only knew of John's baptism. /In Acts 18:25, Apollos taught them only about the baptism of John.

/They believed in Jesus and were saved through the Old Testament Scriptures. /Therefore, they only knew about John's baptism. /Yet, they did not know the deep truth about Jesus.

/Verses 4-5. /Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

/John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. /It was baptism of water. /Jesus' baptism was a baptism of the Holy Spirit. /This refers to the baptism of fire. /Therefore, Paul taught the disciples about the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

/These men knew only about the baptism of water through John the Baptist. /They had already believed in Jesus and received salvation. /Yet, they did not know of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. /Therefore, Paul testified about Jesus.

/Paul said, "the one John the Baptist testified to is Jesus." /John 1:27. /Then the disciples were baptized into the name of Jesus.

/Verses 6-7. /When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

/Paul placed his hands on them. /Then the Holy Spirit came on the believers. /This was the work of the Holy Spirit. /2:4. /10:45-46. /In this way, the Gentiles spoke in tongues and prophesied.

/We interpreted what it means to speak in tongues in Acts 2:6. /The gift of tongues is not given to everyone. /1 Corinthians 12:30. /1 Corinthians 14:23. /The gift of tongues is one kind of gift. /There are many different gifts.

/God gives according to his will. /Here, the believers received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

/Verse 8. /Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.

/Paul went to the synagogue and taught there for three months. /Paul taught in Ephesus for three months. /He testified about the kingdom of God. /He introduced to the people the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ.

/Verses 9-10. /But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

/There were people who believed in the gospel. /However, there were some who were obstinate. /They maligned the Way. /Therefore, Paul left them and went to the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

/Paul did not fight with those who did not believe. /Paul left them and went to the lecture hall in Tyrannus. /He taught the Scriptures daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. /He taught diligently for two years.

/Paul did not cease but continued to teach. /Hence, many people came to believe in Jesus, repented, and were saved. /Then God's works of salvation took place there.

/When people took handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched Paul and took them to the sick, they were cured of their illnesses. /The evil spirits also left them. /God's great works took place there. /When we preach the gospel, God's great works will take place.

/Verse 13. /Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."

/There were Jews who drove out evil spirits. /They invoked those who were demon-possessed. /They said, "I command you" to the demons in the name of Jesus.

/They used the name of Jesus. /They did this to fill their greed. /However, they ultimately failed.

/Verses 14-16. /Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. [One day] the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

/There was a Jewish chief priest. /The teachers of the synagogue were called chief priests. /The seven sons of Sceva were also present. /They used the name of Jesus to drive out demons.

/Then the evil spirit said, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" /Then the sons of Sceva all ran away. /The sons of Sceva attempted to use the name of Jesus.

/They ultimately failed. /However, Paul chased out demons by the power of God. /Paul obeyed God for God's glory.

/Verses 17-19. /When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.

/Those living in Ephesus heard of this. /They became afraid. /They lifted up the name of Jesus. /They repented and believed in Jesus. /Then there were those who practiced sorcery.

/They burned all their scrolls on sorcery. /The cost of their scrolls was fifty thousand drachmas. /In today's U.S. dollars, the total comes to ten thousand dollars in value. /The scrolls were very expensive. /They burned all the scrolls.

/They believed in Jesus, then burned all the scrolls that they practiced sorcery with. /They repented and got rid of everything. /In the past, those who practiced sorcery played the role of servants of the devil.

/When the people believed in Jesus, they saw that the things of the past were all lies. /They burned all the scrolls on sorcery.

/Thus, the gospel of God flourished. /The number of believers of Jesus grew. /There was revival in the church.

/We will continue with the lecture on Acts 19:21.

/Read 19:21. /After all this had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. "After I have been there," he said, "I must visit Rome also."

/Paul passed through Macedonia and Achaia and decided to go to Jerusalem. /Paul wanted to take the annual reports in Macedonia and give to the poor in Jerusalem. /1 Corinthians 16:5-7.

/Verse 22. /He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.

/The man named Erastus is mentioned in Romans 16:23-24. /He was the city director of public works of Corinth.

/Verse 23. /About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way.

/There was a great disturbance in Ephesus by those who opposed Paul. /The works of the devil took place there.

/Verse 24. /A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen.

/Demetrius was a silversmith. /He made idols with silver. /He made boxes to store idols in. /He made a lot of money by making shrines of Artemis.

/"Artemis" is a female god. /She is apparently the god of reproduction of the wild land. /She is said to have twelve breasts. /"Apollon" is a male god. /He is the god of the sun.

/Thus, Artemis is the god of the moon. /Demetrius made images of Artemis and made a lot of money.

/Paul, however, went to many places declaring, "What has been made by man's hands are not gods." /Paul correctly testified about God. /Yet, Demetrius became angry.

/Verse 27. /There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty."

/There were three points to what Demetrius said. /First, he said that his occupation would lose its good name. /Second, he would no longer be able to make good money. /Third, the majesty of Artemis would decline.

/Therefore, Demetrius was furious and he instigated the people of Ephesus. /Demetrius outwardly spoke as if he wanted to lift high the name of Artemis before the Ephesians. /However, he was angry at the fact that he would no longer be able to do business.

/Verse 29. /Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, and rushed as one man into the theater.

/The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus. /Gaius is mentioned in Acts 20:4, /1 Corinthians 1:14, /and Romans 16:23. /Aristarchus is referred to in Acts 20:4, /27:2, /Colossians 4:10, /and Philemon 1:24.

/It seems that Paul was not present there. /The crowd seized Gaius and Aristarchus and went into the theater.

/Paul then attempted to enter the theater. /Yet, Paul's companions kept him from going into the theater.

/Verse 32. /The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there.

/Some were saying one thing, and some another, and the assembly was in confusion. /Some did not even know why they were there.

/The crowd acted on impulse and was provoked. /This is known as crowd psychology, or mob psychology. /We must chase after the truth. /We must follow after what is right.

/Verse 33. /The Jews pushed Alexander to the front, and some of the crowd shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people.

/There was a man named Alexander who tried to make a defense before the people. /Yet, the Ephesians did not want to hear him out.

/Then the people of Ephesus shouted in unison for two hours, praising the image of Artemis. /The crowd stood, not knowing what was going on.

/Verses 35-37. /The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: "Men of Ephesus, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to be quiet and not do anything rash. You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess.

/The city clerk of Ephesus quieted the people. /Then he said, "the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven." /"Heaven" refers to "Zeus", the supreme god of Greece.

/However, regarding Paul, the city clerk said, "they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess." /Therefore, the city clerk calmed the crowd in the midst of the uproar.

/He told the crowd to settle things in the court and not stir up riots. /He told them to press charges.

/Verses 38-39. /If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges. If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly.

/He said that if there is a problem, the courts are open and there are proconsuls, therefore, decide on a date and press charges. /He said to settle things in a legal assembly.

/At the time, there were three court cases three times a month by a legal assembly, with permission granted by Roman administrators. /It was illegal for the crowd to riot and cause commotion. /The city clerk worried that the crowd would cause commotion.



/Verses 40-41. /As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of today's events. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it." After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

/If there were to be a riot for no reason, the city clerk would be in danger of being charged. /If there were to be an illegal gathering, he would be admonished by the government. /The city clerk would be punished for any kind of riots that took place.

/Therefore, the city clerk dismissed the crowd. /Then Gaius and Aristarchus were let go. /Paul also avoided danger.

/God used the city clerk. /God used the city clerk to save Paul and the believers.

/Here we will conclude the fifteenth lecture on Acts. /Thank you.