

SERIES: **THE MOVEMENT- a journey through the astonishing book of Acts**

TEXT: **Acts 19:8-20 An Invitation to Consecration**

There is a massive move of the Kingdom of darkness out there-

Shootings, wars, immoral laws, depression, etc.

However, there is an uprising of the Kingdom of God-

Revivals, awakenings, people coming to know Jesus

YOU AND I CHRISTIAN HAVE BEEN SET APART FOR THIS MOMENT!

**THE TENSION- Our tendency for complacency, is at the cost of the lost.**

Your friends/ family/ neighbors/ political leaders

Stagnant water stinks

<sup>8</sup>Then he entered the synagogue and spoke boldly over a period of three months,

Paul's usual M.O./ 3 months is longer than they usually put up with him

engaging in discussion and trying to persuade them about the things of the kingdom of God.

The overarching thread of the book of Acts isn't the ushering in of the local Church, but the Kingdom

Every church will eventually close its doors, but the kingdom will endure forever

Kingdom of God=*God's sovereign activity in the world resulting in people being in right relationship with Himself.*

God invites you and me into His Kingdom work

**"the size of the church does not determine the significance of the church.**

**The size of the mission determines the significance of the church."** – Vance Pitman

More people are coming to Christ now than any time in history!

Europe and North America are the only 2 continents in which Christianity is in decline.

<sup>9</sup>But when some became hardened and would not believe,

hardened (skleryno)- carries the idea of resisting

slandering the Way in front of the crowd,

*The Way*- not just our name; a new way of living that was radically different than the norm-

Bless those who curse you; forgive those who hurt you; deny yourself embrace Christ; don't give into temptation

he withdrew from them and met separately with the disciples, conducting discussions every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

Tyrannus may be a nickname for a Greek philosopher (tyrant meaning hard/ harsh teacher)

Some Greek manuscripts say Paul taught between the 5<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> hour (11 am-4 pm when all work in Ephesus would stop)

The rest of the day Paul worked (Acts 20:34)

<sup>10</sup>And this went on for two years, so that all the inhabitants of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the message about the Lord.

2 years! **Persistence despite Resistance-**

**Consecration to the mission means we don't give up on all because some have rejected the gospel.**

During this time the churches of Colossae, Laodicea & Hierapolis were founded

<sup>11</sup>God was performing extraordinary miracles by Paul's hands,

God was the one performing the miracles- He used Paul (validating him?)

Don't forget Paul's background check- a hunter of Christians and Christ

God can use you too. God can use you today.

<sup>12</sup> so that even facecloths or work aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, and the diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them.

\*Prescriptive vs descriptive- God can certainly do it this way again, but this here isn't a signed contract that He will

Notice that it wasn't these extraordinary miracles that kicked off the revival/awakening

<sup>13</sup> Then some of the itinerant (traveling) Jewish exorcists attempted to pronounce the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I command you by the Jesus that Paul preaches!"

<sup>14</sup> Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

Many want the power of the gospel but not the Jesus of the gospel; they want the blessings but not the Blesser-  
***Do I seek a Jesus I can use or a Jesus I can follow?***

**Consecration is not about intellect, but intimacy, with Christ.**

<sup>15</sup> The evil spirit answered them, "I know Jesus, and I recognize Paul—but who are you?"

Know- ginōskō -experiential knowledge

Demons aren't atheists

**James 2:19 NLT** You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.

Recognize- Epistamai -familiar with

Does anyone know of you in the demonic ranks? Have they heard of you, have they heard of The Way Church?

<sup>16</sup> Then the man who had the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them all, and prevailed against them, so that they ran out of that house naked and wounded.

Matt Chandler- "if when the fight started you were wearing pants, and when it was over you were no longer wearing pants, you lost"

Maybe the reason temptation keeps beating you up, maybe the reason you keep getting overpowered by sin, is that you're stepping into the fight on your own, ***with the concept of God but not the consecration to God***

<sup>17</sup> This became known to everyone who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Then fear fell on all of them, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

It was not Paul's name that was magnified but Paul's savior

**Consecration requires reverence.**

<sup>18</sup> And many who had become believers came confessing and disclosing their practices,

2 years they HEARD the message (v10); God was working extraordinarily through ONE guy (v11)

But it wasn't until the people got a hold of a healthy fear of the Lord, a perspective of divine perfection & power, that then led them to repentance, AND THEN, they all became part of what God was doing (v20)

**Consecration requires repentance.**

<sup>19</sup> while many of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them in front of everyone.

Do you understand what is happening here?

There were strongholds in every home! Most of these were believers!

**Strongholds were being shattered, but listen....strongholds can be rebuilt. That's why-**

**Consecration requires community.**

(burned them in front of everyone)

Back in v9 some publicly slandered The Way- now some publicly embrace it, together.

Together we go further.

So they calculated their value and found it to be 50,000 pieces of silver.

Please note, that Salvation is free, yet that doesn't negate that **Consecration is costly.**

We have to have a disposition to dying- dying to self, dying to my desire, my ways, my kingdom

<sup>20</sup> In this way the Lord's message flourished and prevailed.

flourished- grew prevailed- it withstood opposition

What are you afraid of/ intimidated by?

the message will prevail against all odds, all doubts, all opposition

These people got to a point where God was more appealing, more joyous, more satisfying, than their sinful practices

My prayer: ***God help me to desire you so much that I am not running to XYZ over and over again, but rather, that I can't help but run to you, over and over and over again.***

**MAIN TAKEAWAY- God isn't waiting for a *capable* church to bring about revival.**

(charming/ charismatic/ confident)

**He's waiting for a *consecrated* people to change the world through.**

*"The world has yet to see what God will do with a man fully consecrated to Him"* D.L. Moody

**CALL TO ACTION- *What is that thing I need to confess that is standing between me and consecration to Christ?***

Let us raise our sails high by consecrating ourselves, so that if God would chose to send His wind, we would be ready.

Altar call/ prayer time

## **BULPEN-**

V13 they said the words but they had no power

I want hell to know my name because I know Jesus' name  
But who are you??? Who do demons say you are?

when we are willing to finally disclose our private bonds to God, He is willing to publicly liberate us. Renounce sin-

Reverence-Repentance-Revival

God goes where He is wanted

Paul has spent 2 years!!! Laying the ground work- many believed, but they were living a two faced Christianity. When revival finally broke out it had nothing to do with Paul directly; when the name of Jesus was publicly magnified revival came-

Here's what it looked like; confession (v18) and sacrificial commitment (V19)

They didn't sell their books, they burned them! Destroyed them publicly.

At the end I'm gonna give us all an opportunity and come to the front and just you and God have that conversation