

Church – The Beginnings, Part 60
Acts 19:8-10 – Paul’s Ephesian Ministry Flourishes
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NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

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Acts 19:8-10

And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

1. According to Acts 18:19-21 – Paul’s arrival back into Ephesus, as seen in Acts 19:1ff (and following), was his **Second** visit. Aquila and Priscilla were there along with the newly saved disciples of John the Baptist (Acts 19:1-7), and those who came to know Jesus through the ministry of Paul, Aquila and Priscilla in the Synagogue.
2. For some divine, miraculous reason, Paul, Aquila and Priscilla have had a tremendously **Open Doors** to share the Gospel of Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel (Jesus Christ) in the Jewish Synagogue of Ephesus. How long did Paul reason with the members of that Synagogue? **3 Months.** But, also think of all the time from Acts 18:19 – that Apollos, Aquila, and Priscilla had an open door in the Synagogue of Ephesus before Paul came back (Acts 19:1ff). So, it wasn’t just 3 months for an Open Door for the Gospel in that Synagogue, but maybe 6 months or more, already. (see Romans 16:3-5 – church that met in Aquila & Priscilla’s home ...)
3. What did the Jews of the Synagogue call the “teachings” of Paul? (Acts 19:9) → **The WAY.** **Why?** John 14:6 – Jesus said, “I AM the WAY, the Truth, and the LIFE, and no one can come to the Father, except through ME.” Apollos spoke of “The Way of the LORD!” and so did Paul. Instead of the term “Christianity”, the term at that time was → **THE WAY.** If you were of “The Way”, you were a Biblical Follower, Born-Again, Disciple of Jesus Christ, Yeshua, the Messiah, the Savior of the World. It includes the “body of beliefs”, “the teachings” and the “Lifestyle” of following Jesus, per the Apostles’ Teachings (see Acts 2:42).
4. Why did Paul want to leave the Synagogue and rent the Tyrannus?
Acts 19:9 - But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

So, after all that time of exposure of the Old Testament Messianic Prophecies and matching them to the Historical Jesus (Yeshua) of Nazareth – there came a day in which the Synagogue had enough and there was **NO** longer any Open Door for the Gospel of Christ in that Synagogue. We’ve seen this movie before in previous chapters. At least the folks of the Synagogue didn’t stir up a city-wide riot.

The new disciples of Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah) included – like we’ve seen before → Jewish Israelis, Greek-Jewish Proselytes, and PBB (Pagan Background Believers – Gentiles with only Pagan backgrounds). But, among them were the 12 (or 13 – including Apollos) disciples of John the Baptist – who also are now saved, and included among the “disciples” that moved into in the **School of Tyrannus. Meeting in the School met their needs.**

For a “local church family” to be a “local church family” – the following must be true:

- a. Genuine Born-Again Disciples of Jesus Christ
- b. Some sort of Leadership (pastoral, etc.)
- c. Consistent Gathering (place(s), time(s), location(s)) for **Learning and Fellowship**
Must be able to meet together on a regular basis – gatherings (Public – House to House)

5. **Because of this move, out of the synagogue, the church** – became a witness to the entire Region of Asia (Asia Minor – an ancient Roman Province – basically – Modern-Day Turkey) If you will remember – that there was a time in which God forbade Paul and his team from preaching in “Asia” (see Acts 16:6-7). Then in Acts 18:22-23 – Paul was able to preach in some of those regions – but, still not fully. But, after the church in Ephesus moved out of the synagogue into the School of Tyrannus, that was when God used the church in Ephesus to reach out with the Gospel, effectively, to the regions of Asia:

Acts 19:9-10:

⁹ But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ And this continued for **two years**, so that **all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.**

6. **Because of this move, out of the synagogue, the church** – she was now on her own – completely, with her own buildings, locations, gathering places, gathering times (days of the week, times of day, etc.), leadership, and identity. She would no longer be identified as being a Jewish sect, but her own identity → **the church of Ephesus**. She consisted of Jews and Gentiles – **BOTH** following the Jewish Messiah, the Savior of the World – but outside of the Synagogue.

This was being played out everywhere the Gospel was planted from Jerusalem (Acts 2) through and including Acts 19. Everywhere, those who were of “THE WAY” had to find their own places and times to gather outside of the synagogue. “THE WAY” was truly “the New Covenant in Christ” – The Body of Christ – The Kingdom of God – the Movement of God – the New Wine Skins filled with New Wine of Christ. She is not just Jewish, not just Gentile – but fully Messianic, fully New Covenant of God in Christ. We have become the new Holy Temple of God, the Dwelling of God in the Spirit:

Ephesians 2:11-22

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to **create in Himself ONE NEW MAN FROM THE TWO**, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might **RECONCILE THEM BOTH** to God in **ONE BODY** through **the CROSS**, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

¹⁸ For **through Him WE BOTH have access by one Spirit to the Father.**

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are **NO LONGER** strangers and foreigners, but **FELLOW CITIZENS** with the saints and members of the **HOUSEHOLD** of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, **GROWS** into a **HOLY TEMPLE** in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built **TOGETHER** for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.