

Sermon Notes
The Book of Acts // Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey S3 Ep4
Walking in the Light
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

"Ephesus was a stronghold of Satan. Here many evil things both superstitious and satanic were practiced. Books containing formula for sorcery and other ungodly and forbidden arts were plentiful in that city." (*Gaebelein*) 123

1. Walk in the light. Evil dwells in secrecy.
2. Christ followers who walk in power have surrendered every dark and evil thing to the consuming fire of God.

1. Walk in the light, evil dwells in secrecy.

- Vs. 17 *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. 18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds.*
 - **KNOWN:** The incident with the sons of Sceva caused an **awareness** within the community.
 - It is significant that these practitioners of magic **came confessing and telling their deeds**. It was thought that the power of these magic spells was in their **secrecy**, which was renounced in the telling.

1 John 1:9 *This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.*

2. Christ followers who walk in power have surrendered every dark and evil thing to the consuming fire of God.

- 19 *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. 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.*
 - Repentance was not a thing of secrecy in the early church, but a powerful and public renunciation of sin and darkness.
 - "burned them publicly"
 - Hebrews 12:29 *Our God is a consuming fire.*

Practical Takeaways:

1. Remove secrecy from your life.
2. Take an inventory of what in your life might need to be surrendered to the fire

Questions for Small Groups:

1. Vs. 17 *"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."* Why do you think that the Jews and Greeks were filled with fear?
2. In verses 18 and 19 the words "**openly**" and "**publicly**" are used regarding repentance. Why do you think these two words are important?
3. Is there anything dark in your life that you think needs to be confessed to this group and repented of?
4. The early believers were willing to destroy expensive things that might hinder their relationship with God. Does this seem over the top? What type of things might be burned if this passage was happening today?
5. Vs. 20 *"In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power."* Why do you think these events caused God's word to spread?

1 https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/acts/acts-19.cfm

2 With 1.5 million potential practicing witches across the U.S., witchcraft has more followers than the 1.4million mainline members of the Presbyterian church.

3 <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/10/28/celtic-festival-samhain-2021-celebration-wicca-witches/6182226001/>