

God works through the Church

Acts 17-20 – The story of the Ephesian church

- I. Paul's first brief visit to Ephesus – The importance of God's word as the foundation of a church (Acts 18:19-26)
 - A. Paul reasoned in Ephesus about truth (Acts 18:18-22).
 - B. Apollos taught Scripture fervently (Acts 18:23-26a).
 - C. Priscilla and Aquila helped Apollos teach more accurately (Acts 18:26b-28).

- II. Paul's long stay at Ephesus – The importance of God's power in the life of a church (Acts 19).
 - A. The church received the Holy Spirit (19:1-7).
 - B. The church grew as it taught God's word and its people reached others with the gospel (19:8-10).
 - C. The church experienced God's power (19:11-41)
 - God did miracles – Healings through handkerchiefs (11-12)
 - God purified – Demons cast, occult items burnt (13-20)
 - God protected – Safety at riot in Diana's temple (23-41)

- III. Paul's visit with the elders of Ephesus – The importance of godly leadership for the future of a church (Acts 20:17-38).
 - A. Encouragement from the past (20:17-21)
 - Paul's humility and fervency in serving God (17-19)
 - Paul's faithful teaching in public and homes (20-21)
 - B. Exhortation about the future (20:22-38)
 - Expect hardship based on Paul's example (22-27).
 - Guard for error and shepherd God's people (28-31).
 - Stay true to God's Word and Grace (32).
 - Be content, work hard and serve the weak (33-35).