

Recap of 5/22/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 19:8-20

1. *the message of Acts 19:8-20 is that our God is sovereign over all so-called gods and religions and deserves our undivided allegiance.*
2. *In two instances chapter 19 of Acts demonstrates that God is more powerful than false religions, superstition, and the occult. In this passage Luke records God's victory over superstitions, magic and the occult, and shows the need for Christians to break with the old life.*
3. *The question for believers today is "have we broken with the old life? Have we burned our bridges with the old life? God will not share His glory with another!"*
- "There are a thousand ways of being religious without submitting to Christ's Lordship, and people are practiced in most of them." (Eugene Peterson)
4. *God healed, through Paul, as a rebuke to the false religions, superstition, and mystery religions of Ephesus. The gift of healing in the New Testament was a sign gift given by God to authenticate the message and the messenger of the gospel, until the completion of the self-authenticating Word of God.*
5. *The incident involving the Jewish exorcists served to show that Jesus was not to be trifled with and His name was to be revered. So much so that even believers were convicted of their continued involvement in occultic practices. Believers are to be undivided in their allegiance to Jesus Christ and are to forsake those things in our lives which are not compatible with faith in Christ.*
6. *"The people sought spells to give them wealth, happiness, and success in marriage. Superstition and sorcery were commonplace. God clearly forbids such practices (Deuteronomy 18:9-13). You cannot be a believer and hold onto the occult, black magic, or sorcery. Once you begin to dabble in this area, it is extremely easy to become obsessed by them because Satan is very powerful. But God's power is even greater (1 John 4:4; Revelation 20:10). If you are mixed up in the occult learn a lesson from the Ephesians and get rid of anything that lures you into such practices." (Life Application Bible).*
7. *"They made the cleanest of clean cuts, even though it meant abandoning the things that were their livelihood. It is all too true that many of us hate our sins but either we cannot leave them at all, or we do so with a lingering and backward look." (Barclay)*