

Journey of Obedience: Acts

Paul and the Gentiles Acts 15:36-19:41

LEGALISM

Strict adherence to law or prescription, especially to the letter rather than the spirit. The judging of conduct in terms of adherence to precise laws.



Road with a ditch on either side!



LICENSE

A permit from an authority to own or use something, do a particular thing, or carry on a trade.



1. Paul goes into NEW areas by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

- “Let’s go visit the churches.” Barnabas takes Mark. Paul takes Silas and they pick up a young man, Timothy, to accompany them.
- The Holy Spirit prevents them from going into Asia Minor and Bythinia until they reach Troas, where Paul gets a dream of a man from Macedonia asking for help.
- Lydia is the first to believe. They preach and people believe in Philippi, Thessolonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth—where they stay for 1-1/2 years training the believers.
- Paul takes Aquila and Priscilla with him and leaves them in Ephesus, where he stays only very briefly.
- At the beginning of his third journey, he returns to Ephesus, where he spends nearly 3 years.

2. How did they live and what did they value?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| State Agora | Politics |
| Domitians Temple | Engineering |
| Pollio’s Fountain | Business |
| Curetes Street | Nice Homes |
| Terrace Houses | Learning and Education |
| Celsus Library | Commerce and Shopping |
| Commercial Agora | Entertainment |
| Great Theater | The Body and Fitness |
| Gynasium | Sports |
| Stadium | Religion |
| Artemis Temple/ Brothel/Toilets | Sensuality/Sex |



3. Paul teaches the Believers how to be mature in their faith.

- In the synagogue for 3 months.
- At the school of Tyrannus.
- From house to house—pouring himself out to teach the new believers and being viciously opposed by the Jewish leaders and Gentile worshippers of Artemis.
- Seven sons of Sceva try to imitate Paul’s power—the Holy Spirit!

4. The Believers give up their Old Ways...at GREAT COST!!

Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. (over \$2,000,000!!) Acts 19:18-19

Eight book of the New Testament are connected to Ephesus:

Ephesians, I and II Timothy, John, I John, II John, III John, Revelation
And I and II Corinthians mention Ephesus.



PAUL admonishes the believers to PUT OFF their old ways and learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

- *Ephesians 2:1-3, 10* As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath...For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)
- *Ephesians 4:1, 17, 22-24* As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (NIV)
- *Ephesians 5:1, 10* Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children...and find out what pleases the Lord.

The one who repents and comes to Jesus by faith, is transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit so that they have a new desire to please Him as dear children. They are to put off their old way, even at great cost, in order to love God and do the good things for which they were created.



Key Verse to memorize:

Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

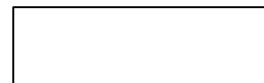
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