

Off Witchcraft!

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 19:8-20.

B. God never wins His battles by majority vote.

C. Ephesus was a center of witchcraft.

D. Ephesus was a stronghold of darkness that could only be overcome by truth, love, righteousness and faith.

II. God's rule over the hearts of men and His intention for them to be under His control had come in Jesus and was opposed to the rule of Satan.

A. The Ephesians resisted recognizing that they were inwardly wicked because of their desire for religious respectability.

B. Paul lectured for around 130 days in Ephesus. In two years time, the gospel had spread throughout the province.

C. God meant to teach that His power was released through a humble, usable man.

D. The sons of Sceva attempted to use religious authority to their detriment because the demons recognized Jesus and Paul, but not these Jewish exorcists.

III. The result was that the name of Jesus was magnified throughout the area.

A. Christians began to clean up their lives. When the church begins to clean up its life, the world will begin to see itself as it is.

B. Witchcraft seizes control of a human being.

1. God has designed a person with boundaries.

2. Demons must therefore take control of a human being by deceiving a person.

3. Demons trap people into yielding their wills and opening their minds.

C. Paul and the Christians of Ephesus assaulted the demonic stronghold of Ephesus, and this is what the church ought to be—operating in the power of the Spirit and the authority of the Word.

Application questions:

1. Why was the rejection of the Jewish exorcists' power such a powerful witness?

2. How does the church demonstrate to the world its own condition?

3. Why is the demonic power such a dangerous force? Explain.
