

Acts 18:23-19:41 – 20 September 2020

Is Your Name Known?

Introduction

We've been learning much from Paul's missionary trips around the world

Essential Aspects of Sharing the Gospel

Flexibility to change direction as led of the H.S.

1st trip (Acts 13-14), 2nd trip (Acts 16-18),

We'll now get his 3rd trip in Acts 19-20

As we're out just trying to be a Christian and make friends, a synonym of being effective is when people begin to know your name.

You know you're in when people call you by name and can even spell it.

Sub shop writes names on subs & got it all wrong

As Paul goes on his 3rd trip, **we'll get tips about how a Christian's name becomes known with 3 groups.**

1st Group – Is Your Name Known In The Church (Chap 18:23-19:10)

Read Vs 23-24

1. Outbound leg of 3rd trip – Galatia, Phrygia & now Ephesus
2. Paul dedicates his time to people
3. Now we meet Apollos, a bold man

Read Vs 25

1. Apollos preaches in the synagogue knowing only John the Baptist's preaching

Read Vs 26

1. Aquila & Pricilla taught Him of Jesus
2. Can you recognize when someone has good intentions to serve the Lord, but they're messed up in some way?
3. By the grace of God, we're all growing
 - a. We're all at different knowledge levels
 - b. We're all at different purity levels

Read Vs 27-28

1. Apollos goes to Corinth, Athens – is a big help
2. All b/c others helped him grow
3. It's the very fact that these Aquila, Pricilla and Apollos were open to growing in the Lord, that they became so beloved & known.
4. Now Apollos becomes known by name to those in Corinth & Athens.
 - a. Not b/c he's the smartest or best
 - b. But b/c he was willing to grow in the Lord

Read Vs 1-7

1. The same as Apollos, these 12 men knew of only the baptism of John Baptist
 - a. Means, they knew God was calling all men to repent and prepare for the Messiah
2. From Jesus originated the idea that God will empower us w/ His very life to be a Christian thru the Holy Spirit of God in us.

- a. These 12 men didn't know that
 - b. Some new believers in Maine, were debating which spirit they wanted & had to be told, "it's not a holy spirit, it's the Holy Spirit"
3. Not having the written Word of God, the speaking in tongues was a def authentication of Paul's word to them.

Read Vs 8-10

1. God does the saving, Paul's goal is the telling
 - a. Vs 10 – "All...heard the Word"
 - b. Vs 9 – Some were hardened – Word of God thru Paul hastened them into their position of not believing
2. 3 months in the synagogue, 2 yrs at school of Tyrannus spreading the Word to all people
 - a. Spent 2 years growing the church
 - b. Paul become known by name to them
 - i. Not b/c he fed their temporary bellies daily
 - ii. But b/c he fed their eternal souls daily

2nd Group – Is Your Name Known In Hell (Chap 19:11-20)

Read Vs 11-12

1. God worked unusual miracles thru Paul
 - a. Don't expect the unusual today. It was...unusual.
 - b. The miracles, in general, authenticated God's work as legitimate and true.
2. How were these items effective?
 - a. They're a point that activated one's faith
 - b. As woman who wanted the hem of Jesus
3. These healings are getting hell's attention

Read Vs 13-16

1. Be clear, demons are more powerful than men.
2. Only the power of God can adjure the demons
3. Paul is known in hell, not b/c of his own might, but b/c he's one who allows God's power thru him

Read Vs 17-20

1. It's only as we seek to magnify the name of Jesus that our name becomes known

Read Vs 18-20

1. This is tangible repentant – great example!!
2. These people became known in hell!
 - a. Not b/c they only spoke in agreeance w/ God
 - b. But b/c they acted in agreeance w/ God!

3rd Group – Is Your Name Known In The Unbelieving World (Chap 19:21-41)

Read Vs 21-22

1. Paul has big intentions to go on further to Macedonia before going back home.
 - a. Even wants to go to Rome to preach
 - b. He also knows that God will direct him wherever He wills

Read Vs 23-27

1. The unbeliever Demetrius wants to persuade the people of two things
 - a. They're losing money b/c of the gospel
 - b. They're losing their way of life b/c of same
2. Paul has become known to these unbelievers
 - a. Not b/c he's pushing a bad gospel
 - b. But b/c he's pushing something more important than their life entails!

Read Vs 28-34

1. People capture Gaius, Aristarchus & Alexander in mob confusion
2. When the world becomes aware of your Christian life, they're often misinformed on what you're actually even sharing.
 - a. They're not ready for what you're offering
 - b. They're greatly concerned for what they may temporarily lose.

Read Vs 35-41

1. The Holy Spirit is currently restraining men from utter and complete lawlessness
 - a. II Thess 2:7
2. The only other thing that typically restrains men from acting against a Christian is their fear of other men.
 - a. The town clerk convinces them, that they'll be in even worse trouble be the Roman if they continue to cause an uproar.
3. Look at vs 37 – Paul became known them
 - a. Not b/c he spent his time preaching against Diana
 - b. But b/c he spent his time preaching for Christ

Read Chap 20:1

1. The fellowship of the church is so important as a landing point.
 - a. We need the encouragement to keep going!

Conclusion

So as Paul and the early church members, Is our name known?

1. **Is our name known in the church?**
 - a. Don't have to be the smartest or best, just a servant willing to grow
2. **Is our name known in hell?**
 - a. Don't have to do miracles like Paul, just have to be one who 'casts off the works of darkness' and turns fully to God (Rom 13:12)
3. **Is our name known in the unbelieving world?**
 - a. If the gospel you offer is that of Jesus saving sinners, unbelievers will take notice.

Ultimately our name is known in heaven by God

Psm139:13 – God knows us b/c He creating us

Matt 10:32-33 – God can know us b/c redeeming us

Rev 2:17 – God will give us a new name