

August 9, 2025

The Way

West Valley End-Time Ministries

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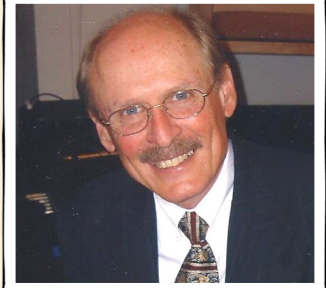
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Join Our Weekly Virtual Bible Study

Acts of the Apostles

Every Saturday 2 PM MST

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The mission of
West Valley
Ministries is to
help Christ's
followers
recognize the
signs of His
approaching
return and be
prepared for
that Great Day

Got questions?
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Bible Study

Acts 19

Paul At Ephesus

1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples **2** and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." **3** So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. **4** Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." **5** On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. **7** There were about twelve men in all. **8** Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. **9** But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. **10** This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

Miracles Glorify Christ

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, **12** so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. **13** Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." **14** Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. **15** One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" **16** Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. **17** When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. **18** Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. **19** A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. **20** In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

The Riot At Ephesus

21 After all this had happened, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. "After I have been there," he said, "I must visit Rome also." **22** He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer. **23** About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. **24** A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there. **25** He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: "You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business. **26** And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all. **27** There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited; and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and



Bible Study

the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty." **28** When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" **29** Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, and all of them rushed into the theater together. **30** Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. **31** Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater. **32** The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there. **33** The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander to the front, and they shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people. **34** But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" **35** The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: "Fellow Ephesians, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? **36** Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to calm down and not do anything rash. **37** You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess. **38** If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges. **39** If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly. **40** As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of what happened today. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it." **41** After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

Honest Questions

August 9, 2025

Honest Question: Should we pray for non-Christians who are sick?

Bible Answer:

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything **by prayer and supplication**, with thanksgiving, **let your requests be made known to God.**” Philippians 4:6.

Comments: My thanks to the one who submitted this question, for in preparing my response I have been forced to again consider the many facets of the subject of prayer, to my own benefit. So many things come to mind when I think of prayer – among them:

- ◆ My own experience with prayer – the earnest appeals I have made to God for the healing of people I love
- ◆ The disappointments of “unanswered” prayer
- ◆ The simplicity of the sincere opening of my heart to God
- ◆ The times I’ve prayed for people as a pastor simply because it was my role as a minister to do so
- ◆ The times I have sincerely said I would pray for someone and then didn’t make it a priority
- ◆ The times I wasn’t sure what to pray for when someone was sick
- ◆ And how much we as Christians talk about prayer as a spiritual exercise but fail to see prayer as a simple “conversation” with God – an expression of our heart anytime and anywhere

My impression, however, is that the question posed above is really about whether we as Christians should pray for the healing of a non-Christian who is ill – perhaps because of an abusive lifestyle that has been and will continue to be displeasing to God – and/or who is a person who has an attitude toward God which is antagonistic to faith. Should a Christian appeal to God for something which may clearly be against His will and an insult to who He is?

My response to THAT question has to include the following thoughts:

- ◆ Don’t insult God by praying for someone simply to look good to those around you. Jesus was clear about that point on more than one occasion.
- ◆ If you truly have a desire for God to heal someone, Christian or non-Christian, by all means “let your requests be made known to God...by prayer and supplication.”
- ◆ God hears the sincere prayer of the heart of **everyone** who calls upon Him for His help or intervention, regardless of who we are or who the person is for whom we pray.
- ◆ Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of those who were responsible for His crucifixion, for they had no concept of the evil of their deeds and the price they would pay for their unthinkable crime against God! Further, Jesus told us to pray for our enemies.



Honest Questions

- ♦ When Jesus was here on earth, He healed ALL who came to Him for healing and told His disciples to do the same in His name.
- ♦ And finally, and very important for every petitioner, don't be disappointed and lose faith in God when He fails to give you that for which you ask. Instead, trust Him to hear your prayer, and then to accomplish **His will** in your matter of prayer, learning to trust Him for who He is, not what He does or doesn't do for us in response to our prayer! Even Jesus prayed to the Father to "remove this cup" from Him, but then said, "not my will but Your will be done." Jesus didn't receive what He prayed for, because His Father had something better in store for Him, "even our salvation!" – which is what Jesus had willingly lived and died for!
- ♦ In the end, we will praise Him because He is faithful, and His will will be exactly what we would choose for ourselves if we could see with His eyes the circumstances we face, or the life circumstances of those for whom we pray.

Thank you for your question!

Doctrines of Demons

Introduction to a New Series of Studies

The Bible says, “Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the **latter times** some will depart from **the faith**, giving heed to **deceiving spirits** and **doctrines of demons**.” 1 Timothy 4:1.

We are living in the “latter times”, the end times, the season of Christ’s return, and deception is the most effective tool of the Devil in sweeping as many people as possible into the camp of the lost before Jesus returns. “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and **Satan, who deceives the whole world....**” Revelation 12:9. While there are already many in the world who gravitate to a life of sin and who glory in evil, the ones Satan is most anxious to claim as his own in these last days are those whose hearts are bent toward good, susceptible to the Holy Spirit, and desirous of being saved. In order to gain their allegiance, he has to come as “an angel of light,” as the “wolf” that he is, “dressed in sheep’s clothing.” He must come in the garb of righteousness, infiltrate the church with false doctrine, and with cleverness and subtlety make that which is false appear true. Thus the inspired name of False Prophet given to a false system of Christianity in the last days.

What are the “doctrines of demons” that Paul says will captivate the religion of the last days. How are they being presented as Bible truth by pastors and religious leaders of the Christian church of today. And what is it about these “doctrines of demons” that is so dangerous to the true followers of Christ? Over the next few weeks, we are going to identify some of the false doctrines that have infiltrated Christianity and examine how these doctrines, when embraced, lead to the rejection of biblical truth so important to the understanding of the Church living just before the return of Jesus. Our format will be to present first “What the Bible says,” then the corresponding “doctrines of demons,” unmasking the deception.

Some of the false doctrines we will examine are:

- ◆ The false Sabbath
- ◆ The false Rapture
- ◆ The false doctrine of Death
- ◆ The false doctrine of Hell
- ◆ The false Israel
- ◆ The false Antichrist
- ◆ The false Gospel

Each false doctrine will be preceded by the biblical testimony of Scripture on the subject and followed with an analysis of why the truth is so important, and the false so dangerous!

Stay tuned!

Gospel for the End Time

"The Gospel for the End Time"

(Reprint)

There is so much going on in our world today that foretells the imminent return of Jesus! Some of those things have been discussed in our previous newsletters, and there are more to be identified and elaborated upon in coming issues. But as I have been busy comparing Bible prophecy with the events of today, I suddenly realized that this piece needs more than ever to be written for my readers, and for any others who are realizing the urgency of preparing for what is breaking. **We are entering a time when our safety with Christ is going to be our greatest possession!** Nothing else, no matter how shocking or trying, will matter if our hearts are not assured of our eternal safety with God.

And for those of you who may think you're okay with God today, I can tell you that the circumstances we are about to face will test our faith to the limit. There will be great doubt in our hearts if our hope of salvation is based on **anything** other than, or in addition to, the **FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST ON OUR BEHALF!** It is because of the intensity of the crisis ahead and the need during that time to know that **NOTHING** stands between us and our Savior, that the following is so important to understand and embrace in faith! **WE WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND DURING THAT TIME, UNLESS WE ARE ABSOLUTELY SURE OF OUR STANDING WITH GOD,** and if there is **anything** of us or our spiritual virtues upon which our safety with God is based, it will fail us, and we may give up on ever being a part of that group that welcomes the return of Jesus.

THUS — this "GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL FOR END TIME CHRISTIANS" (written in the first person).

Once I was lost and without hope. Not only did my sins and failures of the past condemn me, but my very sin nature, for which I had no responsibility, condemned me. And asking God for forgiveness seemed fruitless, for the very sins for which I kept asking forgiveness continued to plague my life. As much as I "hoped" to be ready for Jesus to come one day, I knew inside I would always fall short of being ready to see Him come in peace.

Then I learned what I'm about to tell you....

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He literally became a part of our human family — my family — literally "flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone." He became one with me, in the very same way in which I have am one with Adam, reaping the consequences of his (Adam's) sin in which I had no part. Jesus' incarnation became the basis upon which His life, death, and resurrection would become my very own. Jesus became for us the "second Adam" — offering to us the credit for ALL He was and did!

For 33 years, Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience to all that God requires of humanity. He not only lived a perfect life, He was perfectly righteous in nature, without sin. Then, at the end of His life on earth as my Savior, Jesus endured Gethsemane and Calvary for MY sin/sins. Jesus' solidarity with me enabled Him to bear my sin/sins, in which He had no part, on the cross AS ME, dying my eternal death, a death He didn't deserve. He became me at Calvary, bearing my sin, dying my death.



Gospel for the End Time

And what follows is what is so amazing! My solidarity with Jesus, through faith alone, now enables me to claim **AS MY OWN** a righteousness that is not mine, and a perfect life **AS MINE** that is not mine but which meets every demand of the just Law of God — bringing for me a right standing with God, quite apart from my own efforts, which will withstand the scrutiny of the final judgment! When I, by faith alone, claimed all that Jesus was and did for me, I “passed from death to life”! Nothing can change that for me — not my fallen nature, not my faltering ways, not anything in me can ever separate me from the love and redemption that is in Christ Jesus alone!

All of this is yours too by simply claiming in faith that which Jesus did for you, **as you!** He lived **your life AS YOU**, died **your death AS YOU**, and came forth from the grave in victory **AS YOU**. When you claim it all in faith, it becomes yours as certainly as if you had done it! That is what will give you the anchor of safety with God, never to be questioned, at a time when nothing else is sure — even life itself! That time is just ahead!

That’s the **biblical Gospel** for end time Christians!

Note: Because of the importance of this subject, this segment will be included again on occasion in future issues.