

Sermon Handout

The Way of the Lord

Acts 19:8-10

I. Paul's Ministry in Ephesus

- a. The length of the ministry
 - i. 3 months in the synagogue v. 8
 - ii. 2 years at Tyrannus Hall vv. 9-10
 - iii. Total of approximately 3 years 20:31
- b. The nature of the ministry
 - i. "reasoning" (dialogue/declaration) & "persuading" v. 8
But they spoke evil of "the Way" v. 9b
 - ii. "separation" v. 9a and 9b *cf.* I Tim 6:5; I Cor 6:14-17
 - iii. "reasoning" (dialogue/declaration) v. 9c
Intense instruction of the congregation.
Partial day, every day (11:00-4:00) *cf.* Acts 20:34
- c. The effect of the ministry v. 10
All Asia heard the Word about Jesus

II. The Gospel Spreads Throughout Asia

- a. God's timing – *contra* Acts 16:6
- b. Not by direct action of St. Paul *cf.* Col 2:1 *cf.* Col 4:12-13
- c. Phase 1 (likely) Colosse, Hierapolis, Laodicea (Epaphras)
- d. Phase 2 (likely) Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia
- e. Early churches in Asia
 - i. Ephesus Acts 18:19, 24*ff.*; 19:1-10; 20:17-38; Eph 1-6; Rev 2:1
 - ii. Colosse Col 1:1 *et al.*; Epaphras, Philemon, Onesimus
 - iii. Laodicea Col 2:1; 4:13-16; Rev 3:14 (in Nympha's home)
 - iv. Hierapolis Col 4:13
 - v. Smyrna Rev 2:8 (in Mysea, near Lydia)
 - vi. Pergamos Rev 2:12 (also in Mysea, near border with Lydia)
 - vii. Thyatira Rev 2:18 (in Lydia, between Pergamos & Sardis)
 - viii. Sardis Rev 3:1 (Capital of Lydia, on the Hermus River)
 - ix. Philadelphia Rev 3:7 (in Lydia, close connection w/ Sardis)

III. Lessons for the Church

- a. **Instruction in the Word** is the essential task of elders Eph 4:12-13
- b. Dedicated people, not programs, spread the Word
- c. The Word and the Way must always be the focus