

- Chapter 19 begins Paul's final swing through the Greco-Roman world
- Polarization between Believers and non-Believers was on the increase
- God's way is to divide, elect and separate

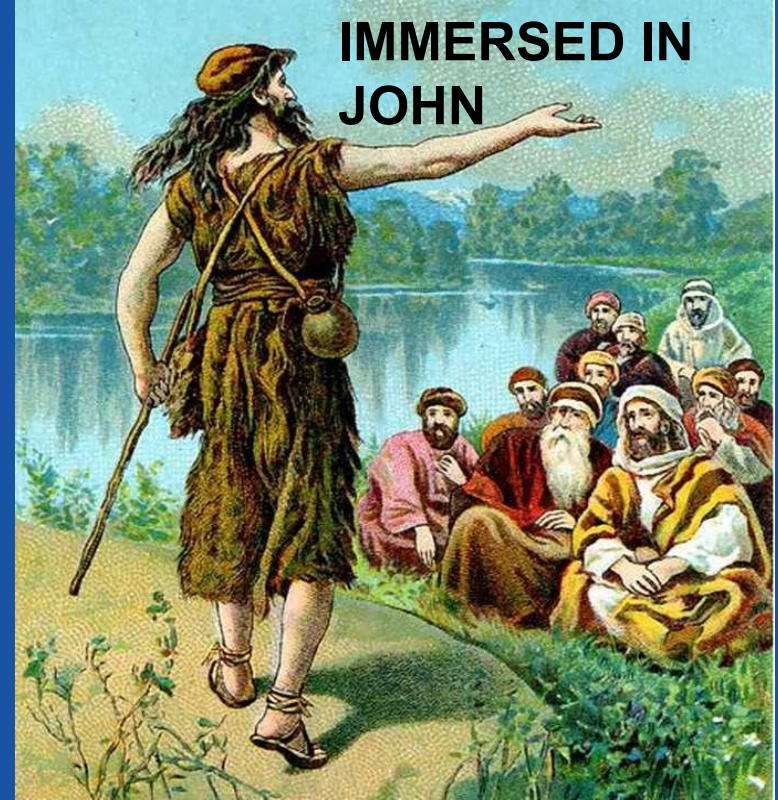
# WHO OR WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?



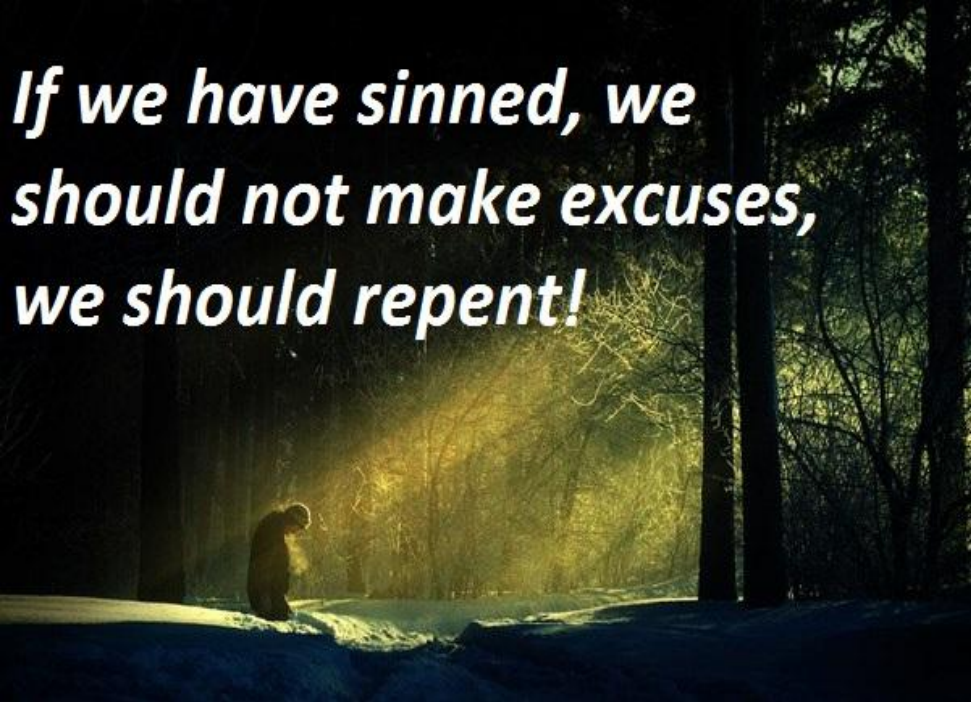
- Some Ephesus Believers never heard of the Holy Spirit !!
- They had been immersed into John, but not into Jesus
- “Christians” in this era is a misleading term
- Not until after 90’s A.D. did gentiles create a separate institution called Christianity
- The Way was thought of as part of Judaism

# IMMERSION INTO WHO?

- John was not set against Christ....not a choice of one or the other
- John's baptism was NOT about salvation per se
- Repentance as a preparation for the Savior and salvation
- How do we know what sin is?  
1John 3:4 *"sin is a violation of Torah"*
- MUST be repentant of sins PLUS accept Christ
- Repentance is only an admission of sins
- Trust in Christ provides the payment for those sins



*If we have sinned, we should not make excuses, we should repent!*



# THE ISSUE OF OUR TIMES

- 1Cor. 6:9 – 11
- Repentance is more than a state of mind...it means to stop doing wrong and to do right!
- No repentance, no salvation
- We can be saved, then sin, but we can repent and remain saved
- One can repent from sexual sin and be saved
- One can relapse, repent, and be saved
- But one cannot embrace sexual sin as “good”

## Practicing Homosexuals Miss Heaven

“Don’t you realize that those who do wrong **will not inherit the Kingdom of God?** ... Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or **practice homosexuality:**”

1COR. 6:9 - 11

Practicing Homosexuals

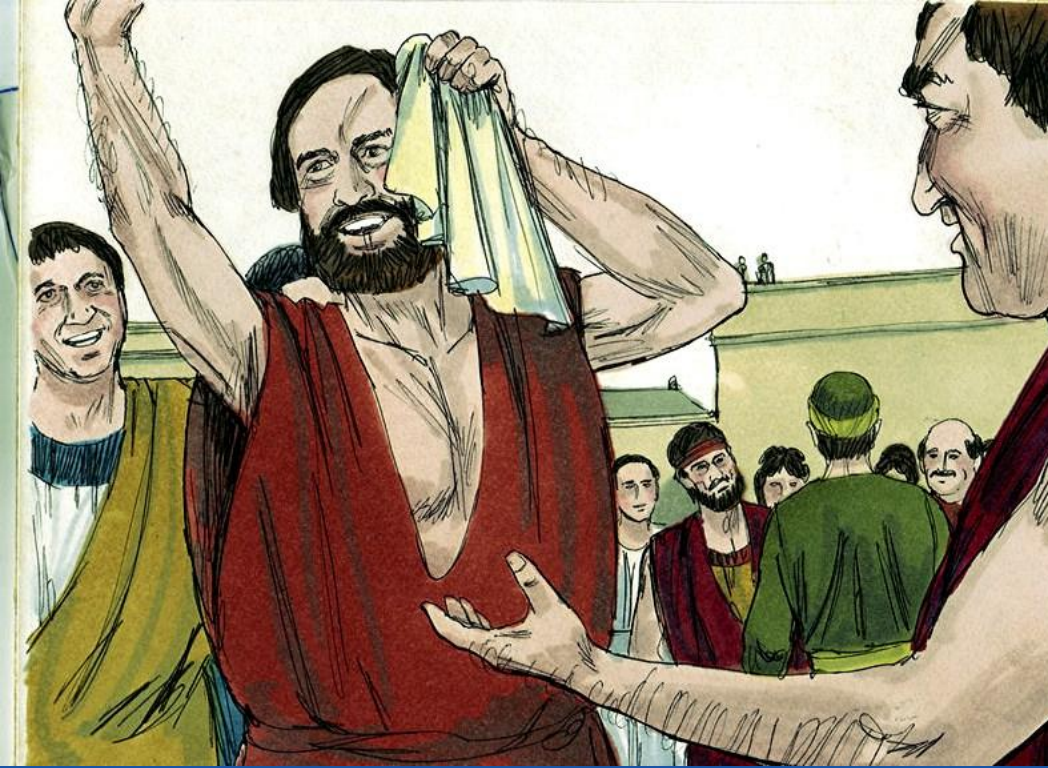


# IS SIN A MOVING TARGET?

- Leaders in the Body of Christ have let the people down
- We are to be the keepers and protectors of God's Word
- Holy Spirit does NOT customize sin for each individual
- The Lord defines sin.... not His followers !!
- Ephesian Believers had repented from sins, but had NOT received the Holy Spirit



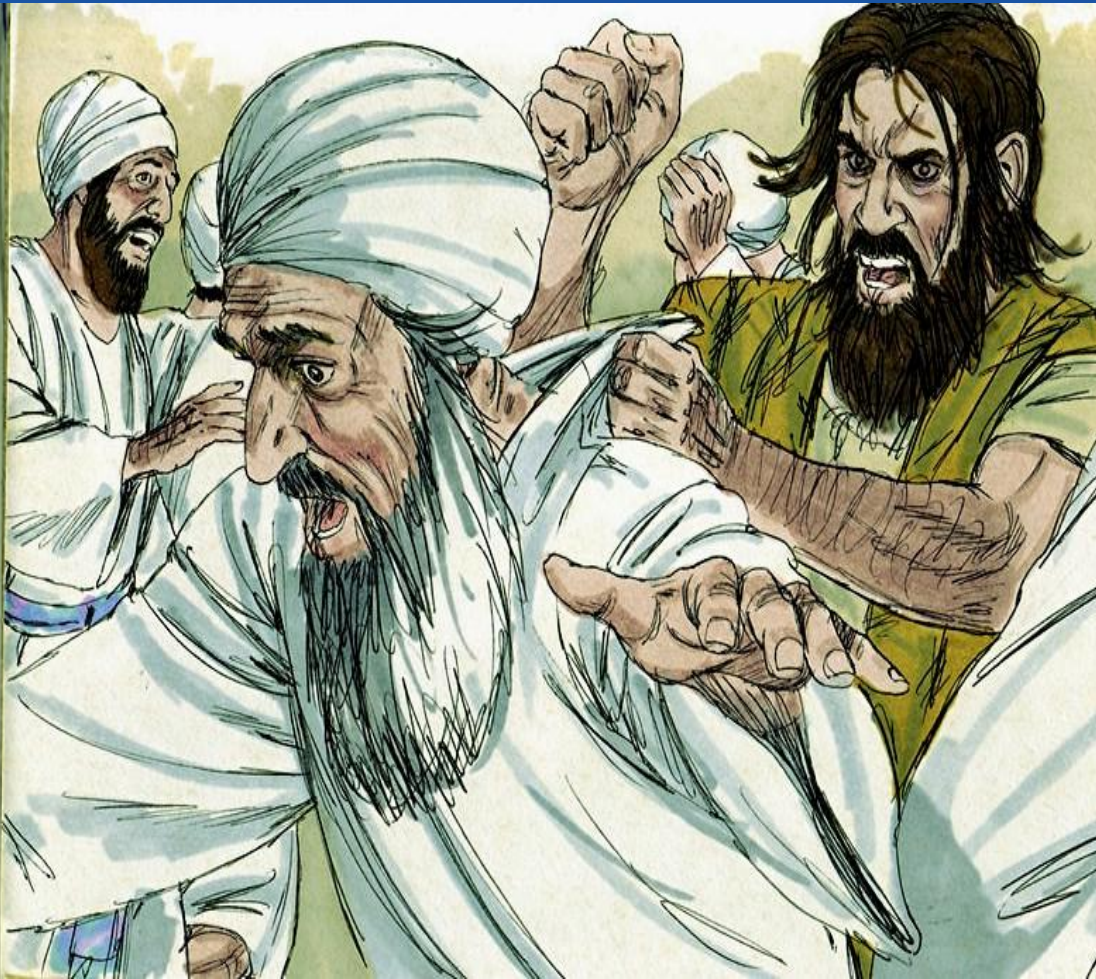
# HEALING POWER



- Paul moves Believers next door to Hall of Tyrannus
- Cloth items touched by Paul heal people !
- Matt. 9:20 – 22
- 2Kings 4:29 – 34
- Partly superstition, partly Torah truth
- God operating in a culture that expects miracles to happen in this form



# THE POWER OF THE NAME



- 7 Jewish exorcists try to mimic Paul
- **Archiereus** = chief priest, not High Priest
- Exorcists try to use Yeshua's name to expel a demon
- The demon is unimpressed and disassembles the 7
- Tears their clothes off, which brings them great shame

# INFECTED WITH PAGANISM

BEIT SHEARIM



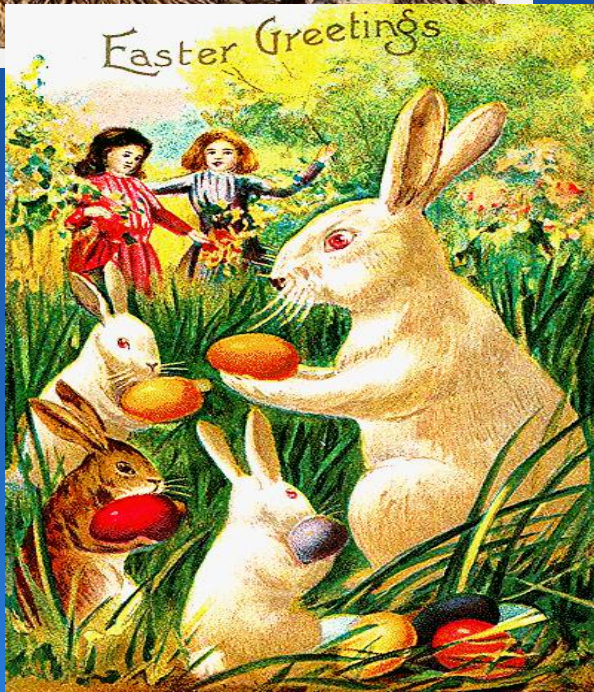
- Mysticism and magic infiltrated Jewish life
- Profitable or convenient
- The bargain to live among gentiles was compromise
- Sceva and his 7 sons the perfect example of this





# SYNCRETISM IN CHRISTIANITY

- Pockets of Jews refused to compromise
- Most Diaspora Jews chose the easier route and the gap between Jewish and gentile life shrunk
- The Church has allowed pagan holidays and symbols to be borrowed and merely renamed



# A REAL COMMITTMENT

- Superstitious Ephesians impressed !
- A reverent fear of Yeshua spreads
- Lifestyle starts changing to match their new faith
- Burned their occult books of sorcery
- A public profession of change
- These books were expensive
- 1 Drachma = 1 day's labor
- God-Principle: Gospel never more effective or spreads faster than when Believers are under tribulation

