

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 19 1-10



Trust in the Lord and be doing good; dwell in the land and be nourished with truth.
Let your delight be in the Lord and he will give you your heart's desire.
Psalm 37:3-4

Praising:

Lead us to Christ, the living Way,
nor let us from his pastures stray;
lead us to holiness, the road
that we must take to dwell with
God.

Reading:

Acts 19:1-10
Paul's two years in Ephesus

Paul's first dealings with the believers in Ephesus concern baptism. Having received John's baptism, the twelve believers have not yet heard about the Holy Spirit. Paul remedies the situation, seemingly without delay. Baptised this time in the name of the Lord Jesus, Paul proceeds to lay hands on them and it is at this point that they experience the spiritual gifts of speaking in tongues and prophesy. Paul's two year stay in

Ephesus, the capital of the Roman province of Asia, affords him the opportunity to proclaim the word to many of the locals, those of both Jewish and Greek backgrounds. Beginning with three months in the synagogue, Paul moves the disciples to the lecture hall of Tyrannus. It's not just that some of the Jewish congregation reject Paul's message, they start maligning and discrediting the Way itself.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we pray for grace when people misrepresent or slander Christ and his followers

- give us gentleness, as we correct error and set forth truth
- make us long-suffering, as we are mocked, derided or belittled
- show us how to walk away, rather than be drawn into trading insults

Father: when I feel indignation when people abuse me for following Jesus, remind me it's no more than Christ himself faced – and his disciples. Replace my pride with your love. Amen

Doing:

Monday, 13 June 2016