

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 19 11-20



The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart has trusted in him and I am helped;
Therefore my heart dances for joy and in my song will I praise him.
Psalm 28:8-9

Praising:

Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
make this lost world your home;
descend with all your gracious
power:
O come, great Spirit, come.

Reading:

Acts 19:11-20
Paul as God's spiritual instrument

It isn't just Paul's efforts to proclaim and argue for the Gospel that make an impact. God is using the apostle as a means of directly demonstrating his divine power. Touching articles of Paul's clothing for cures might sound wildly superstitious, but it reflects a first century worldview where a spiritual dimension to life was almost universally accepted. The incident involving the exorcists and the evil spirit works unexpectedly in the apostle's

favour. The testimony of the evil spirit not only puts the exorcists in their place, it recognises the superior power of Jesus and of Paul himself through Jesus. News of this spiritual showdown not only brings glory to Christ, it also leads some of those who hear about it to be upfront about their own dabbling with questionable spiritual practices, and then to set them dramatically aside.

Listening:

Praying:

We ask Lord for confidence in your power at work within us

- when we're all out of resources, ideas or answers of our own
- when we're tempted to give in to feelings of defeat and hopelessness
- when we forget to trust in Christ's victory over all the forces of sin, death and hell

Father: so often I wait till I've tried everything else, till I've given it everything I've got. And then I turn to you, and discover you were there along, and I was wasting my time without you.
Amen

Doing:

Tuesday, 14 June 2016