

# A HEART FULLY DEVOTED

## ACTS 19:8-22

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: Ephesus was one of the most immoral cities on earth. However, its immorality was no match for the Holy Spirit working through a heart fully devoted.

***DID WITNESS HARD.*** Hard-working Paul had discussions daily with the Jews and Gentiles. Some professional speakers equate one hour of intense speaking and preaching to eight hours of preparatory work. Arlis Urcavich teaches, “Always do your best.” Kent Hughes advises that “the world is run by tired people.” A heart fully devoted to Jesus Christ gets the job done and done well. (Acts 19:8-11, fn 19:9, Acts 9:15, 16, fn 9:15, 16, Romans 1:8-10, fn 1:9, 10, II Timothy 4:1-8, fn 4:2, Philippians 3:7-4:1, fn 3:12-14, fn 4:1) *What could happen in your environment if you had a heart fully devoted?*

***WAS FALSELY DUPLICATED.*** For every worthwhile endeavor and every occupation, there are fakers. “Even the name of Jesus is spoiled and is powerless on the lips of one who repeats it parrot-like.” Alexander McClaren, *Acts*, p. 178. Pretenders recognize greatness but they refuse to pay the price of authentication. In this case the price was being born again by trusting Jesus. Isn’t it ironic that the lack of genuine faith is revealed in the shame of “nakedness”? (Acts 19:13-16, fn 19:13-16, II Corinthians 11:12-15, fn 11:14,15[2<sup>nd</sup>], II Peter 2:1-14, fn 2:13, 14, John 3:7, I Peter 1:17-23, I John 5:1-5, Titus 3:3-8, fn 3:3-8) *How could you encourage your family to have a genuine faith?*

***HAD POWERFUL RESULTS.*** The value of the satanic materials would be equal today to a year’s salary for one hundred and fifty men. “The tense of the verbs in verse 18 indicates that the people kept coming...kept confessing...kept showing.” Warren Wiersbe, *Acts*, p. 76. The world did see hearts fully devoted and lives, including ours, were forever changed. (Acts 19:17-20, fn 19:18, 19, Colossians 3:17, fn 3:17, Luke 7:36-47, fn 7:47, Luke 8:11-15, fn 8:11-15, Matthew 25:21, fn 25:21) *What needs to change for you to have a heart fully devoted?*

***Pray for one another’s needs.***

***Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?***