

LESSON 10
NEW WORTH
ACTS 18:24—21:14



1 In what ways would your community change if all the store owners became true Christians?

2 How might the Christian faith hurt sales in some businesses?



Read Acts 18:24—21:14 and the following notes:

- ☐ 18:24–26 ☐ 19:25–27 ☐ 19:27 ☐ 19:33, 34 ☐ 20:18–21 ☐ 20:24
☐ 20:33 ☐ 20:34

3 What was the message Apollos was preaching? How did his message differ from what Paul was preaching (18:24—19:7)?

4 Where did Paul begin preaching in Ephesus? Why did he change locations (19:8–10)?

5 How did the gospel change lives in Ephesus (19:11–20)?

6 How did others react to these changes (19:17–41)?

7 Describe the relationship between Paul and the Ephesian believers (20:13–38).

On his third missionary journey, Paul traveled to many of the cities he had previously visited, encouraging the believers and strengthening their faith. In Ephesus, Paul had a powerful ministry, preaching in the synagogue and in a lecture hall. The Holy Spirit worked, and lives were transformed. The whole community was affected—occult books were burned, and idolatry was rejected. This caused a violent reaction in the business community—idol manufacturing was big in Ephesus, and Christianity threatened sales. From Ephesus, Paul traveled to Troas, Macedonia, Achaia, and Corinth. After retracing his steps through Macedonia to foil a plot against his life, Paul decided to go to Jerusalem. Then, in an emotional reunion at Miletus, Paul said farewell to the Ephesian elders and continued toward Jerusalem, led by the Holy Spirit. Wherever Paul went, he preached the gospel. Wherever the gospel was proclaimed, lives were changed. How is God changing lives where you live? What differences are Christians making in your community?



8 Why are many people more concerned about money than about doing the right thing?

9 What changes might take place in your community if a lot of people became followers of Christ?

10 In what ways could true believers in Christ be a threat to community leaders?



11 How would you react if your business or livelihood were threatened by your faith in Christ?

12 How might your values change if you took your faith in Christ more seriously?

13 In what other ways might your faith in Christ change your life (for example: relationships, use of time, possessions, family life)?

14 Think through your values—what you consider important. What might easily come between you and Christ?



15 Throughout this week, ask God to change your values so that they are more in line with his.

A How did God use Apollos to strengthen the early church (18:24–28)? What gifts has God given you to use for him?

B What was incomplete about Apollos’s preaching (18:25; 19:1–4)? How does a person receive the Holy Spirit?

C What happened when the seven sons of Sceva tried to use Jesus’ name to drive out an evil spirit (19:15, 16)? How did this incident affect the community (19:17–20)? What occult practices are evident in your community?

D What was Paul’s message to both Jews and Gentiles alike (20:20, 21)? Why was he willing to face danger and death to deliver this message (20:24)? What hinders or discourages you from telling others about Christ?

E What warnings did Paul give the Ephesian elders (20:28–31)? Describe the farewells in this section (20:13–38). Why were the believers so close? What does this teach us about Christian fellowship?

F Where was Paul determined to go (19:21; 20:16; 21:4, 13)? Why were people trying to dissuade him from going there (21:4, 11, 12)? How are you sure of God’s leading in your life?

MORE
for studying
other themes
in this section