

Theme: There is life and power in knowing the Savior; there is great danger in only knowing *about* Him. The very great power of the name of Jesus? Do not take it in vain.

Introduction and Background: An anonymous “gift” to “encourage” our faith. Paul returns to Ephesus after a year

I. Believers fully blessed! (Knew a lot about Jesus – and wanted to follow.)

A. Were these true believers?

- Luke’s use of “disciple” is universally of followers of Jesus.
- Something is missing.

B. Paul asks diagnostic questions

1. “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”
 - Links the Holy Spirit with faith.
2. “What baptism did you receive?”
 - Links the Holy Spirit with baptism.

Paul takes it for granted that baptized believers receive the Holy Spirit.

C. Baptized in “the Name of the Lord”.

- With clear understanding.
- Receiving the Holy Spirit through the hands of the Apostle

D. Taking the **Name** of Jesus

- *To believe in “The Name” of Jesus – is to have the Spirit of Christ in you.*
- The transforming power of the Name and Work of the Spirit would soon be evident in these 12!

II. Scoffers scorned (Learned a lot about Jesus - and wanted nothing to do with him.)

A. Paul in the synagogue.

1. Preaches the Kingdom of God
 - Setting forth the truth about the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15)
 - Lasts 6 months

B. The message is scorned

1. Stubborn
2. Unbelieving (Romans 1:18)
3. Speaking evil of the Way (John 8:58; 10:30; 20:28; Colossians 1:19)

C. A message well received

III. Pretenders in peril (Knew little or nothing of Jesus – but wanted to *use* Him)

A. Paul's *Extraordinary* Miracles

1. Signs and wonders *encourage* the Apostle and *affirm* his ministry.
2. Handkerchiefs and aprons? Or the Power of *His Name*?

B. The Jewish Exorcists

1. Respected among those who practiced magic.
2. Attempting to use the name superstitiously.
 - Demons knew Jesus (Matthew 8:31; Mark 1:31; Luke 4:41)
 - They know Paul, his servant.
 - But these guys??

C. The *Name of the Lord* Extolled!

IV. Conclusions – That **Name** still carries great power!

A. **Believers** – **When you take the Name of Jesus**

- You are identified with the person and work of Jesus.
- You receive the power of the Spirit in the Name of Jesus, the Christ.

B. **Scoffers** -

1. His name will be extolled – *Every knee will bow – Every tongue will confess – JESUS IS LORD!*
2. The good news will be refused.
3. God give us grace to speak in the Power of His Name, to live in the Power of the Spirit - as lights before people wrapped in darkness.

C. **Pretenders** -

1. Many in our day who believe in Jesus of their own making, tailored to their own liking.
2. They will be overpowered by the flesh, the world or the devil.

Extol the name of the Lord Jesus – that name that is above every name! – Walking in the power of the Spirit at work in you.