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Act 19 verse 11 through 20. Let us take heed to hear this as an act of worship for these are the words of God. Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul. To even handkerchiefs, or aprons, were brought from his body to the sick. And the disease is left then.

And the evil spirits went out of them. Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves. To call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits. Saying we exercise you by the Jesus whom Paul preachers. Also, there were seven sons of scava Jewish chief priest, who did so, And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus, I know.

And Paul, I know. But who are you? Then the man and whom the evil spirit was leaped on them. Overpowered them. And prevailed against them. So that they fled out of that house, naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks, dwelling in Ephesus. And fear fell on them, all.

And the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. They counted up the value of them. And it totaled 50,000.

Pieces of silver. So, the word of the Lord grew. Mightily. And prevailed. So far the reading of god's inspired and an errant word. We look to him. Now by his spirit to add his blessing to the preaching of it, Please be seated.

Text the scripture before us this morning, Begins now. God worked unusual. Miracles unusual, acts of power. By the hands of Paul. The word that is translated to your miracles. One of two words that are often translated that way. One usually meaning or having more of a sense of meaning, powerful work and another Having the meaning of sign.

Which is used most frequently of Jesus's miracles or signs. Especially in the gospel of John to which we hope to refer later. But why is it that God worked these unusual miracles? By the hands of Paul. If they're not usual, if they're not things that even those at that time could expect to see frequently, if they're not things that we could expect to see now.

Why would God do them? After all many of us have been exposed, I think. To so-called ministry in the churches. Where those who are false and trying to draw attention to themselves. Much the way, the sons of Skiva try to draw attention to themselves and get the Wrong kind of attention.

Different one than they wanted. But many of us are familiar with this kind of fraudulent. Ministry that Claims to be powerful and claims to be spiritual why? With the Lord. Do these unusual miracles. By the hands of Paul. Well, as we already gave away and parked since this is really the second half of a sermon that began in verse 8 to begin last week, verse 20 gives us the great clue so the word of the lord.

Grew mightily. And prevailed. Indeed, if we look again at verse 10 from last week, This continued for 2 years. So that all who dwelt in Asia, heard the word of the Lord Jesus. Both

Jews and Greeks. These unusual miracles are identifying whose words. Are they that are coming out of the mouth?

Of the apostle, Paul. This is something that the Lord Jesus. Said, would happen. Mark chapter 16. Verse 20. Other places as well. Sometimes we intentionally select from passages. That are not in the critical text to try to encourage you to Purchase a better English translation. And they went out and preached everywhere.

The Lord working with them. And confirming the word through the accompanying signs. And Hebrews chapter 2. If you have an ESV, this one will be in that one. How shall we escape if we neglect. So great to salvation. Which at first began to be spoken by the Lord. And was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

Gold. Also bearing witness both with signs and wonders. With various miracles and gifts of The Holy Spirit. According to his own will.

Lord Jesus, as we will hear in a moment from John 10. When his word was contradicted and opposed, especially by the Pharisees. He said. That the works that he did. Which of the works of God. Testified in that if they didn't believe him on account of the words, they said, at least believe.

On account of the works. And this really gets to the heart of The danger of hearing authentic words of scripture. You see, if you hear a false preacher, A water down words of men. Accommodating the culture. Saying, the things that will draw the crowds preacher. And you don't receive what he hears.

You're not really in that much danger. Are you? But if you receive the authoritative words of God, if you hear the scriptures preached in our day, Or if you were to hear in Ephesus, The apostolic preaching of Paul. Who performed acts of power that demonstrated that this was indeed God in the flesh.

The Lord Jesus, who has now risen again and taken his seat and glory, and poured out his spirit and who has appointed and called and ordained and sent this man to preach to you his own words. Now, if you reject those words,

How so you escape? If you neglect, so great to salvation. You see sometimes people get it wrong. They they say. Well, I will only believe if And they list the signs that they want. That's not how it works. You're not god. You don't get to pick the signs. He picks the signs.

And if you don't receive his signs and if you don't receive his word, Then you will not escape. For failing to neglect. So great. A salvation. Indeed, only the Holy spirit can ultimately convince you. That God's word is God's word. Because the Holy spirit is god. We make the mistake of thinking that.

We have some spiritual ability or some spiritual. Capacity. For recognizing the word of god and that if he meets our demands, then we will Then we'll recognize it. No. The Lord Jesus was making demonstration through these miracles that he gave by his spirit to Paul to perform that these are his words.

And many believed. And for those who believe, The evidence that he gives strengthens our faith. And for those who don't, It leaves us that much more without excuse. We're all ready without excuse, aren't we? The reality of God has been displayed in the things that are made. There's no such thing as the innocent Pacific islander who never saw or heard anything about God.

But there is such a thing. As the god who became, man. To live obediently and dietoningly and rise again, with power for sinners to save them. And having ascended to the right hand of the majesty on high, having a tone for our sins took his seat poured out. His spirit.

And along with announcing that salvation to sinners. That we might hear and believe in him. He has added to the preaching. Those works of his power that authenticate. So we have in verses 11 through 16 of our passage. How the Lord attested the authenticity? Of the preaching. And then we have In verses 17 through 20 of the passage.

How the Lord authentic attested, the authenticity of those who believed of those who hurt with faith. Which is very important for us as well, isn't it? Is one thing to hear the word of God, preached to be able? To see in the Bible. That this is that which God in the greater miracle.

Cause to be recorded cause to be, preserved has kept translated and sent. That we still read today. Accurate translation. Of what this apostle. Who buy these hands? Did these miracles? By the same hands. He wrote not all the time, sometimes he dictate it. And then he wrote with his own hands at the end and because his eyesight was failing, they were Big sloppy looking letters.

So he authenticates the preaching and the authenticates the hearing and we want to know both That what we are hearing is really the words of the Lord Jesus. And we want to know that we have heard it not in our own strength. But by the Holy spirit giving us life to receive and recognize, The words of our shepherd.

And to know him. To know his voice, follow him by them. The first place, then he authenticates. His word in this case, he authenticates his word by these unusual miracles. Hey, is there unusual? Even at the time that Luke wrote In fact, the word means something like not ordinarily observed.

He did things that you would have to see, have to be there to To see. Believe even. Lord doesn't give you faith to. Believe what Luke is writing. They're just miracles that were not. Observed. It wasn't even common then This, I hope will be a help to us who hear this, or maybe we have friends or acquaintances, or loved ones who wish to see miracles like this.

Whether we want to be entertained and amused or whether we are just grasping for the experience of a power and we haven't experienced the power of God. The holy spirit giving us new life in Jesus Christ. We haven't had the experience of hearing his word and knowing it to be his word.

Which is unlike any other sitting under any other teaching or hearing any other kind of speech. Even when you hear the things that resonate with you, it's completely different. Doesn't it? Those of you who have heard the word of god, preached and God, the Holy Spirit who who carried the men along to write the scriptures has come alongside you even as we prayed that, he would for you before the sermon began, you know it's different.

And get you wonder. Have I heard with Faith? Am I just more endangered? Having heard this worked. So it's good that the authenticates. The hearing as well. But these miracles they weren't even common. Then The preaching now is authenticated by the scriptures. Luke recorded. There were there were those who could witness.

There were miracles that attended those who spoke. At the first. Seems that even though the apostolic period isn't over by the time, Hebrews chapter 2 is written in what we read. That the the pace or perhaps, even the continuation. Of those miracles had slowed down or completed.

It's a big problem for those who call themselves continuationists, which they don't mean continuation of the work of the Holy spirit.

How does anyone ever have spiritual life to receive and hear the word and believe in Jesus Christ, the old real Christians are continuationists. When you talk about the work of the Holy Spirit, but those who want to be continuationists. It's about signs and wonders and miracles, miraculous gift of the Holy spirit.

They have to contend with that. As Paul was writing Hebrews. Or dictating Hebrews. Or somebody else if you think it was somebody else. It was Paul. Does Paul was writing Hebrews, he said. Who's the word was? That was spoken by those who hurt, him was attested by these miracles at first.

Now. Enough has been recorded by the time Hebrews is written. Enough for us the whole promise in John 16. When when Jesus says to his apostles, I have many things that remain to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. Then he promises them that when the Holy spirit comes, he will lead them into all the truth because he will tell them the things that remain not just turn them into fortune.

Tellers, the things that will happen later but the things that remain of of the Of what Jesus has to tell his church. It is the scriptures themselves. That authenticate preaching now. It's very powerful, isn't it? Because you and I can sit with a Bible in our lap and hear preaching.

And we can be true Bereans which means we receive it with gladness, not skepticism. Then we check and we look to see that these things are. So we we hear this sermon the the spirit comes alongside and he helps us and we can look at the passage and and say yes unusual miracles By the hands of Paul, and we see the word of the Lord, Jesus, in verse 10 and the word of the lord, in verse 20 and say that's what they were doing.

They were they were confirming and affirming that these are the very words of the Lord Jesus and the holy spirit, helps us as we compare. And then we go home. And we have in our minds and we're responding my meditating upon the word of God and and we start to read and some of us are reading and at least six different places.

Aren't we a different place every day? Monday through Saturday? And haven't you been astonished? How many times? But we have read and heard and had confirmed to us by the spirit of God. As we offered, the hearing, the preaching in the worship, was further confirmed and opened up and applied to us from other parts of the Bible.

Bible itself, testifying God himself. The spirit testifying to us that is word is true. Making sure we don't have. Merely the words of men, a religious book like all the other religious books. But that God, the son himself has given us his words by his spirit. That the miraculous salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Didn't cease. When I took his seat,

The Bible is its America. The preaching is authenticated by the scriptures. He said the Lord didn't just come to save sinners and he didn't doesn't just announce that salvation and demonstration of himself. All those wonderful things that we see. Do you remember? It's been more than a month now since we're in Romans 5:8, and we noticed that that glorious present tense, not God, demonstrated his love for us in this that while we were still sinners Christ died for us, but God demonstrates His love for us and this, that the spirit who sheds abroad, pores out like a like a drink offering the the love of God in our hearts does.

So through the present tense demonstration of when the word of Christ is preached. And we see now as he addresses us from heaven, That while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more? How much more will he complete his Salvation now? And so the Lord doesn't just save and announced the saving He demonstrates that it is, he who is applying the salvation to us.

Part of that is Well, some of us might have said yeah. I think if you really want to demonstrate, That it's the Lord. Jesus, who's saving maybe the preacher? The preacher's handkerchief should be taking to somebody who's sick and see. See if they really are healed. And Take another one of his handkerchiefs to Someone whose possessed by a demon and see if the demon comes out of them.

We would come up with that. We would not come up with. Have a man stand. And read from an English translation of a 2000-year-old book written in three dead languages. That he didn't have the gift of tongues yet to go to Seminary and study for years. To understand. And have him just explain and apply.

What's there? And restrain himself. And and try not to be too eloquent or or make the presentation the thing as much as the content of. Of what he's reading and explaining the thing. And when the people get convinced That's the Lord. Jesus is the one who has really given these words and cause them to be written and preserve them over all that time and called this man and made him to stand in front of them and speak for what A McDonald's culture that can somehow endure 3-hour films, but can't endure 30 minute sermons and and if the people get convinced that that's what really happened, that's the demonstration of it.

We would not come up with that. Would be. And yet, the Lord who has come up with that. Your tests he attests what was done by the hands of Paul because of what is coming from the mouth of Paul. We see it in verse 10 is. We've just said that the word of the Lord Jesus was going throughout all of Asia, of Asia, we hear in next week's, passage, Lord willing and verse 26.

A part of what Paul was saying, Paul his persuaded and turned this Paul rather this Paul the one who's hands are performing these unusual miracles in verse 11 verse 26. This Paul has persuaded and turned away. Many people saying that they are not gods, which are made with hands.

No, but but there's one God who made. Everyone. He made the heavens and the earth and he made all nations from one blood. And he is about to call them to account. And he is given testimony. That he is the creator and the judge of them all. By sending Christ and raising him from the dead.

Who is the judge God and man. So, Paul has been preaching, things like Little silver, Diana's can't be gone. People like Demetrius made them with their hands. No, the real God made her hands. And we have to give account to him. For what we do. With our hands and ourselves whom he made.

This is the kind of thing, we're referring now back into Chapter 17 as well. If you want to go back and refresh that He is the hands of Paul to do the miracles because of what was coming out of the mouth of Paul and what was coming out of the mouth of Paul is the identity of Jesus.

That Jesus is the one. Who commands? And and is Victoria's over has power over evil spirits. Evil spirits went out of them. End of verse 12th. Jesus is the one. Verse 17. Who is the Lord, overall, whose name is magnified. His name was magnified in the creation. His name is

magnified and redemption whose name will be magnified at his return that he is king of kings and lord of lords.

And that the name that he has, that is above every other name isn't just above every name on earth. It's even above every name in heaven. The Jesus is Jehovah. He is Yahweh. Who has come in the flash? There are angels hiding their faces from a man in glory.

Of whom Isaiah had a vision, didn't he? Isaiah saw the king high and lifted up. Do you know who didn't see the king? The seraphim? Because they hid their faces from the king. The prophetic vision. Of the Lord Jesus. Now sitting in gloria toning for us. Applying from his Atonement on that reality of which the altars on earth were a copy.

His angels being ministering spirits to serve those who are inheriting salvation. Just the book of Hebrews.

It is the identity of Jesus. We've been tracing this a little bit but those who oppose the preaching, the apostolic preaching of Jesus Christ. They're not just theologically wrong. They're blasphemers. Why? Because they don't receive that Jesus is God. They don't receive that. God has declared himself in these last days by his son.

Who is greater than all other revelation, even the, the vision and verbal revelation of the Old Testament, Christ is the greatest, he's exalted. He, he says his word above all his name, in Psalm 138 And so chapter 13 verse 45 when the Jews and at Antioch, But this is Antioch in city at this point when the Jews is Antiochese, the multitudes are filled with envy and contradicting and blaspheming The opposed of things spoken by Paul.

It's just, you say, Jesus is not God. Hero, Israel, Yahweh or God. Yahweh is one. You shall love the and they recite the same on. Tell them right in the face and then blew in the face running out of oxygen and And they're all upset. Did Jesus is being proclaimed as God.

What are they doing? They're blaspheming the true God.

Then again, in Acts. Justin, the last chapter 18. Verse 5 and 6. Paul was compelled by the spirit controlled by the spirit, testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. And what was he saying about this? Jesus, whom he was proclaiming at the Christ as the Christ. Well, in part, he's saying that he's God Because in verse 6 again, when they opposed him and blasphemed These are Jews.

Blaspheming the true God because they don't recognize Jesus. As they're gone. They may say tomorrow is a feast to y'all way. But it's a Yahweh of their imagination. Not the one who came in the flash, that's the Lord Jesus Christ. To live and die and rise again. Unless Jesus is the Christ that remember, in verse 6 of chapter 18, it was tied to verse 28.

Where Apollos having been? More correctly instructed. Now, he doesn't just He doesn't just speak the things of the Lord accurately verse 25. He speaks the way of God accurately verse 26 showing from the scriptures verse 28, that Jesus is the Christ using the same language as from verse 5.

It's the identity of Jesus as God that the one who was promised in Genesis 3:15. Is in fact, your way himself now, it's been a long time and most of you weren't even here, when when we were in, Genesis chapter 4 and Eve having heard about the seed that would come from her and and crush the serpent's head, the first Yeah, when she has her first son and she names him Kane.

And we looked at well, I looked at it and she doesn't say I have brought fourth a man with Yahweh. But the words that is translated with is actually the sign of the direct object. She thought that somehow she had brought forth a man in whom was, or was himself identified with Yahweh.

She was hoping it took. A few thousand more years, but she was hoping that the first try would be the promised son. That he would crush the serpent's head. But he's finally come. And his y'all paying the flesh. And even his name spoken by his servant. Since demons running for their lives unable to resist required by his authority and office.

To obey. What is rightly said in his name?

Jesus came his first. John 3:8 says to destroy the works of the devil. Not just in the possessing of people as is here. Put all of them. All of the works at the devil. Because those whom he saves, he sanctifies. And there will be no trace. When when you and I see him as he is, we will be like him.

And that's what we are going after. Whenever we are working in our sanctification, whenever we are putting sin to death as we are led by the spirit of god to put to death. The deeds of the body were purifying ourselves as he is pure, and he who has begun in the work in us will have completed that work in us and there will be nothing left of the work of the devil in any of us.

There won't be any remaining sinful nature. There won't be any remaining sin at all.

The not only that there will be nothing left of the work of the devil and the creation. Because there will be a new creation. Even the animals. Be restored. Lions lying down with lambs. Cobra submitting to little children.

That's the At least poetic picture if not actual Biological. Reality.

When you heavens and a new earth and what's righteousness? Dwells And here's that power breaking through and how do you have access to the power? Well you don't have it by trying to get. Now miracles that were unusual then and had come to a conclusion by the time the New Testament was done being written.

Not concluded after, but had come to a conclusion by the time. The New Testament was done being written. How do you have access? To this power. To the preaching. Of the word of the Lord, Jesus. What you now a tests. By its consistency with that, which he caused to be recorded to be written down.

Which he gave us in writing quite literally, And which he attends. By his saving power.

You see, Jesus. Attested. His own words by miracles, he attested his apostles words by miracles. You tested that he himself, is God. We're not going to take the time now to work through John 10:25-39. But that's the main thing that was at issue in that conversation with the Pharisees when he made reference to his works.

That he and the father are one. That when he talks about the hand that holds us, And he says, in one verse that, it's his hand, and then he says, in literally the next verse that, it's his father's hand. And that both hands are almighty. Because it's the same.

Here's a. Next level a secondary level. Bible trivia question children. Does God have hands? The answer is yes. Because God the son became a man. And he's still a divine person. You can't see God, right. God is a spirit and has not a body like men. But God became a man.

And the god man has a body. And he has hands. So, we say this reverently, because when he says, none shall take them out of my hand, He doesn't mean his actual physical hand in heaven, does he? He means. That metaphorical hand that he has, that is also the father's hand, because he is the living god.

The second person of the trinity But we may reverently say in the communication of That happens in the person of Christ. The hands that hold you have holes in them. When he said he would come and he would save them just as his father commanded him and he would, he would get them all.

He wouldn't lose any of them and no one could take them out of his hand. Because no one can take them out of his father's hand and it's the same hand, I guess we did. Do John 10:25 or 30, we just didn't read it.

Because he and the father are one. And the Pharisees say blasphemy.

But if the spirit convinces you by the word of god, We haven't seen the works. They had seen the works. They weren't convinced the works demonstrated that Jesus is God. He said, if you don't believe the words at least, believe the works. What are you going to do when you stand before me in the last day?

What what will they do when they stand before him on the last day? And there he is in all his glory. And they had seen glimpses of the glory and the works that he had done. And we see glimpses of the glory, in the word that he has preserved.

What the miracles proved, especially Is the identity of the Lord Jesus Christ that he is God. Who came to save his people.

But you cannot have the proof. Without the word. You cannot have the proof without Jesus himself. You can't have the power. Without the one whose power it is.

Some of the itinerant, Jewish Exorcist verse 13, took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits saying, we exercise you that we cast you out, By the Jesus whom Paul preaches. There you have it. It was the preaching. Even, they knew.

Also, there was seven sons of Skiva Jewish chief priest, who did so The evil spirit answered and said Jesus, I know, and Paul, I know. But who are you?

You see, we're about to hear that. God and the, the Lord attests to the the genuineness of hearing and faith by the repentance that he gives, and the sanctification that he gives June genuine. Repentance and sanctification are not something we can produce ourselves. Is often preached that way in the churches, isn't it?

Did you get these? Moralistic sermons. That are full of true morals. But Christ isn't being preached as the one whom we serve in them and the one in whose strength and by whose life we can do them because in him and with him, our former self died at his cross.

And so it's just a burden that no man can bear. Is that not trying to have? And I know where borrowing from part of the text, we haven't heard yet preached. Isn't that trying to have the sign without the one who sign it is? Isn't that trying to have the act of power without the one whose power it is?

And isn't that what the sons of Sceva? Are doing here. Ultimately all moralistic, obedience, all obedience apart from dependence upon the grace of Christ, and the old self having died with Christ, is another version of what the sons of scheva tried to do here. Trying to have the demonstration of the power of Jesus even using his name.

But not knowing him. Not belonging to him by faith. And all. Self-dependent. Attempts to be moral. End up in the same humiliation, don't they? Even if you don't get scandalously humiliated before men now Which a great many do. How will they be humiliated in the last day when they arrive saying, Lord Lord.

And as he says in Matthew 7, he says Apart from me, I never knew you. You workers of lawlessness. Because they did not have faith in Christ and union with him. And his death, as the death of their old self. And his resurrection is that, by which they walked in newness of life.

The reason their workers of lawlessness in Matthew 7:22 is because they never knew him. Well, here you tried to have workers of Victory over a demon but they don't know him.

The sons escape. I don't know Christ and therefore the spirit doesn't recognize them. Evil spirit answers and says Jesus, I know. And Paul, I know. But who are you? The man in whom the evils spirit was leaped on them. This is seven guys. 7:1. Overpowers them and prevails against them.

So that they fled out of that house, naked and wounded. Not just beaten defeated. Injured. Put humiliated. Because Jesus did not come so that your name. Would be lifted up. So that you would look good to men. He came so that his name would be magnified as the Lord who saves Jesus as God with us Emmanuel.

And you. And I Cannot seek the demonstration of the authenticity of the Lord's word out of a desire both. That we would be honored and that he would be glorified.

We aim at his glory alone,

He will glorify his church with himself. And he, Will delight to do that and we will delight that. He did that, but that is his work not ours. And these signs. Whether the the signs that attested the preaching, the unusual miracles, the unusual works of power in verse 11 or whether this confessing in verse 18 and this repenting and sanctification in verse 19, They?

Are there for the their purpose is at the end of verse 17. The name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

My sons of Skiva become famous. Quite literally. You see that? At the beginning of verse 17, don't you? This became known both to old Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus. And fear fell on them, all. And the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. They came to the Jesus.

Really is powerful the way Paul is preaching that he is powerful and those who are brought to faith came to bowden hand confessed with the tongue that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that he has risen from the dead. You know that Romans 10, if you believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and confess with your mouth that God has raised him from the dead.

That's what's going on here.

But what about those seven sons of Skiva? For the rest of their lives. I mean, they weren't naked the rest of their lives. But many of you little children, you just thought about it, didn't

you? Little children that would that would see them around in Ephesus. Those are the guys who got bloodied and beaten and had to run naked out of the house.

No, that's where I'll Wrong for minded of the children, but the shame of the nakedness is real, isn't it? And the shame of the notoriety is real.

The Lord also authenticates the hearing. Authenticates the hearing by repentance and sanctification. As the name of Jesus's magnified in verse 17, that you have these people who want others to know what Jesus has done in them. They not only believe with their In their hearts that Jesus is Lord and confess that God has raised him from the dead.

They also come and confess their own deeds. Many who had believed came confessing and telling their own deeds. They told what they used to do, what they used to be like How the things that they knew that they were sinful, they couldn't stop doing. And there were all sorts of things that they didn't even know that they were sinful.

And now, the Lord has Grown them. By the Christ and whom they trust. And he has given them to stop doing. Things that they used to do. If you are not a person. Who no longer does some of the things that you used to do. You have no good reason to think that you're a Christian.

If you think you have been saved by a Jesus Christ who has not changed your life, Then the idea of Jesus that you have is not the Jesus of the Bible, You may have been saved. Christians. Are not perfect. And many of them have times of backsliding, such that the Lord Jesus, and the parable of the wheat, and the terrors gives us the reason for not uprooting.

Everyone that looks like a tear. Because some of them are actually wheat. That is so weak. That it looks like a tear. Christians. Who are still so worldly and so sinful and so on interested in holiness. That they can't know their Christians. That's the point. Because the Jesus, who saves is a Jesus who sanctifies He gives repentance this.

Was the point, wasn't it of the baptism exchange earlier? In the chapter. That John preached to repentance that he couldn't give. But Jesus, baptizes with the spirit who gives the repentance.

When so one thing that authenticates the hearing is that they did. Differently than they did before. In fact. Not only were they willing to confess confess sin specific sin specifically and reject specific sins. Specifically, They were also willing to lose. Their wealth and their identity. Many of those who had practiced magic.

My self-identified as magicians. Brought their books together and burned them in a sight of all. That, which was such a significant part of their life before. That they were those who practiced magic. That was their identity. And that which had Cost. Such a significant amount and

And this is what you should do with, you know, heretical books that you used to buy from LifeWay or whatever. Don't give them away. So that some unsuspecting discount hunter on the internet or at the the Thrift store. Will take home theological garbage and be poisoned on a kind of you.

Destroy them. Many of those who practice magic brought their books together and burn them in the side of all, they counted up the value of them and it totaled, 50,000 pieces of silver. Isn't this often one of the things about our sin that we have a hard time repenting of putting away getting rid of either, that it was such a big part of our lives that it feels like renouncing ourself to get rid of, or just that there was such a big time in financial investment.

What is the loss by comparison to having Christ? Are there not things now? That you have sometimes heard or read in preaching or in the Bible and the thing that is really keeping you. From admitting that, the Bible does identify what you were thinking and doing as a sin or or does command the thing that you don't do as part of following Christ, is it not the case that some of it is the costliness?

And we become really good at the theology to justify, not having to pay the cost.

Well, one of the ways that The Lord. Demonstrates that he is the one who gave the hearing, and he is the one who gave the faith. Is that you say the Lord Jesus Christ be magnified. This thing that cost so much of my life and so much of my money.

I renounce it. I hate it. I'm done with it. No, it doesn't mean that none of them were ever tempted to try and get some knowledge or some power by practicing magic again. No wonder there was so much demonic possession and activity in their city. This was just the converted ones that had 50,000 pieces of silver worth of magic books.

But Jesus, demonstrated the authenticity of everyone of their conversions. By giving them real repentance. Real sanctification. He destroys the works of the devil, not just in devils. But in his people, Local. 1 John 3 behold? What? Manner of love. The father has bestowed on us that we should be called the children of god.

Therefore, the world does not know us because it did not know him love it. Now, we are children of God and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. But we know that when he is revealed we shall be like him for. We shall see him as he is and everyone who has this hope in him.

Purifies himself just as he is pure. You noticed. There are no exceptions in verse 3. There are no people who genuinely hope in Christ and are not pursuing purity like Christ are there. Whoever commits sin. That's over against pursuing, Christ's likeness and holiness. Too much. Lawlessness sin as lawlessness.

You know, that he was manifested to take away our sins and in him, there is no sin. So how would it be that the the righteous one who atones for the guilt of our sin? And makes us to be counted, right? Just through faith. In him would not proceed to cleanse us from all remaining unrighteousness.

That's what he said to chapters ago. That if we confess our sins, the way they're confessing their sins. In the passage before us this morning he is faithful. And just not just to forgive us our sins, but also to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. That there is a pursuit of holiness and purity and Christ likeness, like we will have in glory.

That is an essential part. Of the life of someone who is actually been saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. It doesn't earn any of your standing before God. It doesn't prepare you to be saved. There's no such thing. But it is an essential component. Of the real salvation, by The Real Jesus.

Something he produces and everyone. Whom he brings to faith. Whoever abides in him does not sin. That doesn't mean never sins. That would contradict what we're just quoting from chapter 1. Whoever sins that is whoever sins unrepentantly, whoever is not. Being sanctified at all. Has neither seen him nor known him little children?

Let no one deceive you. He, who practices righteousness is righteous, just as he is righteous. He who sins is of the devil for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this person, the son

of god was manifested. That he might destroy. The works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin.

Does not go on unrepentantly. Does not walk by the flesh. But by the spirit, he puts to death, the deeds of the body. For his seed, that is The seed of God. And it's an intentional play on words, isn't it? With the identity of who Jesus is. 1, John 3:8 in Genesis 3:15, the one who crushes.

The serpent's head.

God seed, Christ's seed remains in him. Christ is a seed who remains in us. He cannot send because he has been born. Of God. Jesus. Destroys. The works of the devil. And he used some destruction of the works of the devil to attest. That Paul was genuinely preaching, the word of the Lord Jesus.

And he used other destruction of the works of the devil, in the lives of those who heard to show that he had genuinely given them faith by hearing and life in Jesus Christ through that faith. And this is why if you're not sure that you're a Christian, the first thing to do, is to fall upon Jesus Christ, and trust in him, and say, whoever calls on your name will be saved none, who trusts in.

You will be put to shame. Save Me, Lord Jesus. There is salvation and no other. But you pursue assurance by saying also sanctify me Lord Jesus by your spirit. Sanctify me by your truth. Your word is truth. You have given me faith by hearing or I pray that you would give me faith by hearing.

Give me also holiness by hearing And demonstrate that it is you who is saving me and we're not just playing spiritual mind games until we wake up after death and find out that we were good church members, who went to hell. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, which means that if you are If you are led by the spirit, if you are putting to death, the deeds of the body, If it's not God's law, that is your problem, but you're remaining sin, that is your problem and you hate it and you say the good that I do.

I don't do in the evil that I hate. I do. Then you say, It's only the power of Jesus. They give someone a heart like that. This didn't come from me. This hatred for sin didn't come from me. This desire for righteousness didn't come from me this longing to know him better and love him better.

Which I don't even know. How sincere it is. It's not perfect in any of us. But whatever there is that is genuinely in me is not from me. This is an attestation, this is a demonstration by the Lord Jesus that he is the one that the one who hung on the tree and rose from the grave.

Is the one who is working in me by his spirit.

We won't take the time to do the The working collations. So, the word of the Lord. Grew mightily and prevailed. I don't know how many people it took. How many former magic practitioners it took? To come up with 50,000 pieces of silvers worth of burnt magic books. But every one of them.

Who had been brought to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Every one of them who had been brought to hate their sin and love the Lord Jesus. Every one of them, who is making progress. Was themselves. Had a part. In displaying the glory of the son of God. Who had died once for all but now was applying individually by his spirit that work to each one for whom.

He had died. You too dear Christian. Every one of you who believe in Jesus. Is he grows you in hating that sin that you keep doing and hate has he grows you in loving that righteousness that you want to do? But keep stumbling and failing. But as he grows you in it, He is displaying not just that your authentically saved, But his divinity as God, who is destroying the works of the devil, Even in you, even in your own life.

And the words of the Lord. Is growing mightily. And prevailing.

Oh man, let's pray.

My father in heaven. We thank you that you have given your son. Our Lord Jesus. As the heavenly gift. And that where Word is breached faithfully and heard believingly. That we taste of. The power of the world to come. And that, as your spirit begins to conform us to the image of Christ.

We get to enjoy with one another. The fruit. Of being a congregation. And whom your holy spirit is at work and almighty power.

And Lord, we thank you. We thank you for each one in whom. The true fruit of. A work of your saving power. Is growing and appearing. I'm bringing Christ glory. And we pray. Lord that Non might. Be among those who can even be in such a congregation as that.

And fall away again. Not having been saved. But instead crucifying The Lord's to themselves and Being impossible to restore to repentance. We pray Lord that you would give instead better things those that accompany eternal life. That as we. Forsake not our assembling together. But come through the Lord, Jesus Christ, with our bodies, washed with pure water.

My heart's sprinkled clean. Did the new and living way? That is his flesh atoned for by his blood. That you would stir us up. And use us to stir one another up to love and good works. That we would not be those who shrink back and parish. But that, by your Spirit.

Working by your power, and us applying Christ himself to us. We would be those who endure. And finish the race. Grant that it would be. So For every one of us, we ask, And the Christ would be glorified in this congregation. Until he returns. We ask it in his name.

Amen.