



HOW TO EXPERIENCE AFFLICTION

10/8/17

Acts 19:18 Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.

¹⁹ And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and *began* burning them in the sight of all; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

²⁰ So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

²¹ Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed in the spirit to go to Jerusalem after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

²² And having sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

²³ And about that time there arose no small disturbance concerning the Way.

²⁴ For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen;

²⁵ these he gathered together with the workmen of similar *trades*, and said, "Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business.

²⁶ "And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods *at all*.

²⁷ "And not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship should even be dethroned from her magnificence."

²⁸ And when they heard *this* and were filled with rage, they *began* crying out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

²⁹ And the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

³⁰ And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would not let him.

³¹ And also some of the Asiarchs who were friends of his sent to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater.

³² So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and the majority did not know for what cause they had come together.

³³ And some of the crowd concluded *it was* Alexander, since the Jews had put him forward; and having motioned with his hand, Alexander was intending to make a defense to the assembly.

³⁴ But when they recognized that he was a Jew, a *single* outcry arose from them all as they shouted for about two hours, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

³⁵ And after quieting the multitude, the town clerk said, "Men of Ephesus, what man is there after all who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, and of the *image* which fell down from heaven?"

³⁶ "Since then these are undeniable facts, you ought to keep calm and to do nothing rash.

³⁷ "For you have brought these men *here* who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess.

³⁸ "So then, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a complaint against any man, the courts are in session and proconsuls are *available*; let them bring charges against one another.

³⁹ "But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly.

⁴⁰ "For indeed we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today's affair, since there is no *real* cause *for it*; and in this connection we shall be unable to account for this disorderly gathering."

⁴¹ And after saying this he dismissed the assembly.

20:1 And after the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he departed to go to Macedonia.

² And when he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece.

2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, to the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

How to Experience Affliction

1. W _____

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort;

⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction

2. L _____

so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

⁶ But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer;

3. T _____

⁷ and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are *sharers* of our comfort.

⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

⁹ indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

¹⁰ who delivered us from so great a *peril of* death, and will deliver *us*, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,

4. P _____

¹¹ you also joining in helping us through your prayers, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through *the prayers of many*.

All Scripture is from the NASV