

Acts # 82 “When there’s a Will, there’s a Way and when there’s a Way, there’ll be Resistance”

Acts 19:17-34; Romans 1:18-23

When God is the subject in reference to repentance, it’s recorded as an anthropopathism to express the fact that God changes or updates His policy occasionally like in Genesis 6:5-6 where God changed His policy regarding mankind.

Since God is immutable or unchangeable, these expressions where God repents are anthropopathisms designed to explain changes in policy, including divine acts of discipline, using human attitudes or expressions for our clarity.

This is language of accommodation: ascribing to God a characteristic He doesn’t have to accommodate us so we can understand Him and His policy toward us.

A change of mental attitude doesn’t save us but when it’s immediately followed by belief in Jesus Christ, it does lead to our salvation.

We repent or change our mental attitude about Who and what Jesus Christ is before we believe in Him; we are persuaded before we believe and then when we do believe in the Lord Jesus, we’re eternally saved.

So, repentance and faith are not the same; faith is necessary for salvation and repentance sets us up for it.

Repentance causes us to change our minds so that from our own free-will, we are willing to make a decision.

The unbeliever doesn’t repent toward sin to be saved, he repents toward God and in so doing, toward God’s message, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Gradually and persistently throughout the city of Ephesus and all the Roman province of Asia, the Word of God became so widespread and divine viewpoint became so common that it began to replace many demon-influenced activities.

Your life can change tremendously as you learn and apply God's Word.

The power of God is the of ability of God to accomplish His will any way He desires.

The amazing thing is that God desires to work through those who humble themselves before Him.

He turns sinners into saints and then works through them to accomplish things far beyond their abilities with eternal results.

This group of deacons travels with Paul to help with supply issues so Paul can focus on studying and teaching the Word of God.

It usually consists of young men who aspire to be pastors and it's a great model for ministry training.

One of the pastor's responsibilities is to identify such candidates and guide them to maturity so they understand fully how to fulfill the responsibilities of a Church Age pastor-teacher.

Many riots have resulted in history because the majority of people bought into a lie and rejected

God's truth.

Paul has not denounced the activities surrounding the worship of Artemis or Diana in Ephesus by cursing the darkness, he's just remained focused in lighting a candle of truth by continuing to teach biblical truth.

And the teaching of the Word of God has caused a great slowdown in the sale of statues and memorabilia related to Diana as indicated by Luke's phrasing in Acts 19:23/;"About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way."

Demetrius is upset due to sinking profits because people are becoming believers in Jesus Christ and they're not buying his merchants' little silver trinkets and not even going to the temple of Artemis to worship their gods anymore.

Shouting never replaces the power of God the Holy Spirit or even common reasoning.

Demetrius knows what he's doing; he clearly understands the effectiveness of Paul's preaching but he's facing total economic collapse.

And Demetrius can't effectively debate his position with Paul because no argument can outshine the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as presented by a trained Apostle.

He can't beat the Apostle Paul and he won't join him so he must resort to the bratty tactic of mob violence but nothing positive is ever accomplished by riotous mob violence.