

Abandon **(Acts 19:8–20)**

Trading what is temporary for what is eternal.

1. Abandon ease. (Acts 19:8-10)

- a. No one said this would be easy. Joining God in his relentless pursuit of the lost requires great effort and personal sacrifice.
- b. The gospel requires hearing, understanding, and believing.

2. Abandon self. (Acts 19:11-17)

- a. The believer must set aside their preferences for the sake of others. (Matt 16:24-26)
- b. There is a significant difference between serving others by God's strength vs our own ingenuity.
 - God is constantly at work in his creation, a miracle is a special event that displays God's unique power and authority.
 - Exposing yourself to the "powers and principalities of darkness" is an extremely dangerous thing.

3. Abandon counterfeits. (Acts 19:18-20)

- a. The cost of obedience is real.
- b. Lifting up the name of Christ often requires letting go of empty imitations.

Application:

"It is all too true that too many of us hate our sins but cannot leave them. Even when we do seek to leave them there is the lingering and the backward look. There are times in life when treatment must be surgical, when only the clean and final break will suffice."

William Barclay

1. What makes leaving some sins so difficult even when we know that they are destructive in our lives?
2. Eph 4:27 warns us not to give an "opportunity" or "space" to the devil. What might the long-term consequences be if you continue to tolerate Satan's empty imitations in your life?
3. What empty counterfeit is the Lord asking you to make a "clean and final" break from?