



Week 4: Defending a fake god

Sunday, January 30, 2022

† Recap: What has happened in Ephesus...

- Paul's encounters with the followers of JtheB (19:1-7): Faith in Christ isn't just about repentance and forgiveness. It is about the presence and power of the SPIRIT.
- The Hall of Tyrannus (19:8-10): The power of being a faithful SOWER.
- Faking the name of Jesus (19:11-20): The power of the miracle of CHANGED LIVES.
- Paul looks toward Rome (19:21-22): The paramount importance of the leadership and work of the SPIRIT.

John 15:5

† The great disturbance: Artemis and ancient Ephesus



† Getting to the core issues

- Follow the money
Acts 19:23-25
- Paul's heresy
Acts 19:26
- An existential threat
Acts 19:27

† Defending our idols
Acts 19:28-34

Reality! *God will never lead us to 'defend' him by reacting with the resources of our flesh. Rather, He will lead us to respond with the Fruit of the Spirit, acting as agents of reconciliation, not 'Christian soldiers' intent on defeating God's enemies.*
2 Corinthians 5:16-20

† Unexpected protection
Acts 19:35-41

† Key takeaways

- When attacked, the church in Acts never defended itself through protest, political actions, or attacking those in opposition.
- The church in Acts didn't attempt to change the surrounding culture through moral imposition or coercion. Rather, the community of believers profoundly influenced the surrounding culture through the testimony of their own changed lives.

Scenario: If the entire Christian community in Eagle County decided God was calling us to transform our valley by reaching everyone with the Gospel and Hope of Christ... How would we go about doing this?

Next Sunday: Week 4- "Defending a fake god" Acts 19:21-24

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