

**Acts: O Church, Arise!**  
September 20th, 2026 — Acts 19:21 - 20:6  
***“When God Opens Doors & Closes Chapters”***  
Sermon by Rex Metcalf

**Big Idea: When we belong to Christ, we can move forward with courage because God’s purposes are greater than our circumstances.**

1. Follow God’s \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 19:21-22)
2. Expect \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 19:23-41)
3. Stand \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_
4. Don’t let \_\_\_\_\_ stop the \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 20:1)
5. Encouragement is part of \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 20:2)
6. Paul’s ministry was NOT without \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 20:3)
7. God uses \_\_\_\_\_ people (vv. 20:4-6)
8. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ continues even when \_\_\_\_\_ change

Conclusion / Challenge

Reflections  
Acts 19:21 - 20:6

**Interpretation Questions**

1. Why does the gospel often create conflict when it confronts idols in people’s lives?
2. Demetrius was motivated by financial loss. How can money or comfort become idols in our own lives?
3. How do we see God’s sovereignty in the middle of the riot and the plot against Paul?
4. Why do you think Paul focused on encouraging believers even after facing intense opposition?
5. What does Paul’s traveling team teach us about Christian community and ministry?

**Application Questions**

1. What “idols” compete for first place in your life right now?
2. Has God ever redirected your plans in a way you didn’t understand at first? Looking back, what did you learn?
3. When life becomes chaotic, what helps you trust God’s plan? Are you more likely to spread encouragement or discouragement when you’re under pressure? Why?
4. Are you trying to live the Christian life alone in any area? What would it look like to invite others into that journey?

**Next Week:** Acts 20:7-12