

The gospel, by itself, is offensive. + *confrontational*

Created by God – we are not autonomous; not an indifferent God, we are made for holy communion

We have rebelled against this Creator – thought word deed – unity/communion separated

We cannot fix this on our own – our darkness is stronger than us/embedded

Our sin cannot be waved away – the wages of sin is death – either we die, or someone else dies in our place

It is through faith alone, and no personal effort, that our holiness is restored and we regain holy communion

Even after we are saved, we still need God's help to live holy lives – Holy Spirit

⇒ So what have we learned – we aren't independent, we are inherently selfish, and we can't do anything about it...

...thanks! *sign me up!*

The thing is... we know it's crazy!

1 Corinthians 1:18 – For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.



To those who are perishing, it is ridiculous – To those who have been changed by it, we know something different

Romans 1:16 – not ashamed of the gospel, power of God for salvation to those who believe - *not changed by facts, changed by God himself*

⇒ Not confrontational for the sake of it, confrontational because there is a war for souls going on.

This is the story of the offensive gospel put on display to do its work

we don't need to add to offense

A bit of setup:

UP
Acts 19:21 – Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

Paul confirmed in spirit to return to Jerusalem via church route (strengthening/rebuking) and eventually go to Rome

Rome: center of influence and power in known world

AMBITION AS GREAT AS EVER → if Rome influences, Jesus must reign there

Acts 19:22 – And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

Paul delegates, sends two helpers (Timothy & Erastus) ahead to Macedonia

→ Tell of his visit

→ Collect for Jerusalem

Paul himself stays in Asia for a while longer...

This portion of Acts unique – no sermon

The Way of Jesus confronts our idols

Acts 19:23 - About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way.

What is the cause of this commotion?

Acts 19:24-25 - For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth."

Demetrius - made silver shrines of Artemis

(Artemis (Diana) - fertility, wealth/meteorite at temple/festival: orgies&carousing)

-lucrative business for silversmiths and other craftsmen

"From this business we have our wealth/prosperity"

Acts 19:26-27 - "And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship."

In Ephesus and elsewhere, Paul speaking gospel - idols aren't gods

Danger for ① Trade proven worthless ② Artemis and temple shown worthless

Demetrius arousing civic/religious pride, but with an agenda

IDOLS AGAIN?	LOVES	Give life value meaning	Not all problems idolatry, but be careful	SCRIPTURES
	SERVES			LOVES
	WORSHIP			SERVES
				WORSHIP

EXODUS 20 - 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of house of slavery'

① You shall have no other gods before me.

② You shall not make & worship a carved image

God is patron, kind... but at the end of the day, we must choose our god.
And you cannot serve two masters

Honestly w/text - not Xrs! Just making ends meet.

True, but we must learn, bcs we end up here...

concession, justification,
and we dethrone Jesus in our ♥

The worst part? We do this with good things!

① ECC 10:19 - Bread made for laughter
Wine gladdens life
Money answers everything

② PSALM 127:3-4 - Children a heritage from Lord
Arrows in hand of warrior

③ 1 TIM 5:8 - Provisors

- All blessings, but Jesus will not be served
- we make sacrifices to these gods all the time.
- not a buzzword - lets take this seriously.

IDOLS CONFRONTED.

②

The Way of Jesus disrupts our life

Acts 19:28-29 – When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel.

City filled with confusion – this is where idolatry takes us.

Acts 19:30-31 – But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater.

Paul desires to intervene, Asiarch friends (high ranking officials, Roman) and disciples stopped him

Sometimes it's better to avoid the fray

"We are called to lay down our lives, not throw them away."

Acts 19:32-34 – Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd. But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

All crying out different things, assembly in confusion, most didn't know why they came together...

Alexander arises, motions to speak

Likely trying to distinguish the Jews as separate from Christians, but shouted down

IDOLIZE → DEMONIZE

WHEN IDOLS CONFRONTED, EMOTIONS/PASSIONS INCITED
WHEN OUR GOD IS DISTURBED, CHAOS ENSUES

→ CHILDREN, MILLENNIALS w/WIFI, ETC.

"MAKE JESUS KNOWN"

WHEN GOD IS JUST SOMEONE WHO TAKES THINGS AWAY → ANGER, DREAD, RESSENT.

WHEN JESUS IS MORE FULLY KNOWN, WE SEE BEAUTY THAT IS UNDEBAUBLE

IN HIM WE SEE ALL THINGS RIGHTLY

PUTTING JESUS ON THE THRONE MAY CHANGE EVERYTHING - CHAOS!

- DIE TO OLD STANDARDS
- END RELATIONSHIPS / RECONCILE
- FACE DEBTS + DARKNESS

} But these things aren't on identity
THE PROBLEM: The idols lie
GARDEN → FORCED TO HIDE, AFRAYD OF PUNISHMENT
CHRIST FACED PUNISHMENT in Gethsemane

The Way of Jesus outlasts our oppositions

Acts 19:35-36 – And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky? Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash."

Town clerk (liaison b/w general assembly and Roman officials) quieted crowd

"Ephesus home of Artemis temple and sacred stone" – indisputable fact

Therefore, don't do anything rash.

Acts 19:37 – "For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess."

They have proclaimed their God mightily, but have not torn down ours

Words here refer to damage/demonstration "robbing temples"

Christians didn't stand for idols, didn't literally damage or disrupt their worship directly... but indirectly...

"God's truth, as it needs not man's lie, so it needs not man's intemperate heat."

Acts 19:38-41 – "If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion." And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

"If there's a problem, let the courts sort it out"

Human prudence is made to serve divine purpose

Unlawful assembly risked Roman reprisals

Settled peacefully, but damage done... Paul leaves.

Luke: careful reporting of careful reasoning – important for Christians to learn that law is on Christian side

Law can still provide protection, therefore be Christlike.

Life of Christ is full of confrontation

- House of prayer, den of thieves

- You brood of vipers, whitewashed tombs

} more religion - more anger
more lust - more love

They could find no fault in Christ – may it be so of us

May we be bold in proclaiming truth w/o fearing others - This is what Christ did

Herod - afraid to tear others down, so don't bold to proclaim truth

Legal - afraid of not proclaiming truth, so don't care about others

May we regard like Christ, as we confront idols, to the backlash keeping silent as if
Christ bore much, deprecating himself at first - vs!

1 Peter - let you not suffer as sinners, but if you suffer as X, don't be ashamed

(4)

SET TABLES