

## 1. Review

- Paul is still on his 3rd missionary journey continuing to be a witness for Jesus in Asia (Modern day western Turkey).
- Last week, we read that God gave Paul the ability to do unusual miracles in the magic and sorcery filled city of Ephesus.
- 7 Jewish brothers tried expelling an evil spirit from a man but the evil spirit attacked them and they fled naked and battered.

## 2. Text

### Acts 19:21-22

- Paul felt **compelled** by the Spirit to go back to Macedonia (Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea) and Achaia (Athens, Corinth), and Jerusalem, and then on to Rome.

### Acts 19:23-34

- A **riot** started in Ephesus by a man named Demetrius.
- Demetrius was a silversmith in Ephesus whose income & **wealth** depended on the worship of the goddess Artemis and on tourism to her temple.
  - He manufactured silver shrines of Artemis, and his large business was **losing income** due to Paul's teaching and influence.
  - Artemis (known as "Diana" to the Romans) was 1 of the 12 gods and goddesses of the "Greek Pantheon". She was the goddess of the hunt, fertility, virginity, and safe childbearing.
  - The **temple** of Artemis was one of the 7 wonders of the world and was a tourist destination for people all throughout the Roman world.
- Demetrius claimed concern that people would no longer revere the handmade gods, the temple of Artemis would lose influence, and that the magnificent goddess Artemis would be robbed of her great prestige throughout Asia.
  - You could say Demetrius worshipped 2 gods... **wealth** and **Artemis**, and both were under attack, so he felt he had to do something.

**Acts 19:35-41**

- Summary: The mayor calmed and dispersed the riotous crowd by affirming Artemis' unquestioned greatness, declaring the innocence of Gaius & Aristarchus, and then warning everyone about what might happen if the Roman government hears about them rioting.

**3. Perspectives:**

- **God uses unknowns and no names like Erastus, Aristarchus, Gaius... and us!**
  - **Ephesians 2:10** "For we are God's masterpiece (handiwork-NIV). He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
  - **Colossians 3:23-24** "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ."
- **Faith in the one true God will result in an eternity with Him. Faith in a little "g" god is temporal and will end in... ruins.**
  - People in Ephesus were thoroughly convinced what they were believing in was true, but it actually wasn't. The same thing is still happening today.
  - Each religion's total estimated population for 2020: ([worldpopulationreview.com](http://worldpopulationreview.com))
    - Christianity - 2.38 billion
    - Islam - 1.91 billion
    - Hinduism - 1.16 billion
    - Buddhism - 507 million
    - Folk Religions - 430 million
    - Other Religions - 61 million
    - Judaism - 14.6 million
    - Unaffiliated - 1.19 billion
  - **John 17:3** "And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth."
  - **Matthew 6:24** "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."
  - **Joshua 24:15** "But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."