



ACTS

The Church Empowered
for Mission



CALL TO WORSHIP

1 As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...

11 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

— Psalms 42:1-2a, 11

ACTS 19:21-20:6

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." 22 And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while. 23 About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. 24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. 25 These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth."

ACTS 19:21-20:6

26 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. 27 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.” 28 When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 29 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.

ACTS 19:21-20:6

30 But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. 31 And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater. 32 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. 33 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. 34 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!"

ACTS 19:21-20:6

35 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? 36 Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. 37 For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess. 38 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. 39 But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly.

ACTS 19:21-20:6

40 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.”

41 And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

20:1 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.

2 When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. 3 There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

ACTS 19:21-20:6

4 Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. 5 These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, 6 but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.



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CRUSHING SERPENTS



ACTS

A CULTURE OF CONFUSION HAPPENS WHEN IDOLATRY REPLACES TRUTH (VS. 21-27)

24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. 25 These he gathered together, with the **Idolastrous Greed (Col. 3:5)** workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. 26 And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of **New Creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) affecting the local economy** Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods **Rocking Ephesians Worldview (their entire religious system is a sham)** made with hands are not gods. 27 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.” **God is Truth: Father (Ps. 31:5), Jesus (Jhn. 14:6), & Spirit (Jhn 14:16-17)**



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“The temple of Artemis was indeed the hub of Ephesian economic life. It was an impressive building, some 165 ft. by 345 ft. in dimension and built on a platform 240 by 420 ft. The entire edifice was elaborately adorned in brilliant colors and gold leaf. The altar area was 20 ft. square and contained a massive image of the goddess with a veiled head, with animals and birds decorating her head and lower body and numerous breasts from her waist to her neck. The animals and breasts were symbolic of her status as the ancient Asian Mother Goddess, the goddess of nature who was believed to protect and preserve the fecundity of all living things.”

-John Polhill, Commentary on Acts



ACTS

A CULTURE OF CONFUSION IS FUELED WHEN TRUTH IS EXCHANGED FOR EMOTION (VS. 28-34)

2 Options when Idolatry is Exposed: 1. Repent or 2. Rage

28 When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of

the Ephesians!” 29 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...32 Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the

Loudest voice isn't necessarily the truest voice.
assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come

together... 34 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!”

Emotions aren't evil. God created us w/ emotions.

However, emotions do not determine our reality—God's Word does.

Why? B/C He is the same yesterday, today, & forever (Heb. 13:8).



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*THE GREAT THEATER
OF EPHESUS*



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A CULTURE OF CONFUSION IS FUELED WHEN TRUTH IS EXCHANGED FOR EMOTION (VS. 28-34)

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ACTS *A CULTURE OF CONFUSION NEEDS A CHURCH COMMUNITY OF CONVICTION (VS. 35-20:6)*

Civic authority in Ephesus

35 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?...37 For you have

brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our **God sovereignly saved their life through a pagan official**

goddess...20:1 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after

encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. 2 When he had gone

Paul was resolved in Spirit (v.21); Confident in Christ, not shook by culture through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece.

3 There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as

Paul penned 2 Corinthians & Romans during this time he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.



ACTS

CHRIST, THE CLARITY IN THE MIDST OF CONFUSION

*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am **the way**, and **the truth**, and **the life**.
No one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

-John 14:6

Jesus = **Truth** in a world full of lies.

Jesus = **King** in a world of competing kingdoms.

Jesus = **Lord** in a world where everyone is vying for the throne themselves.

*A confused culture needs a church of conviction.
A church of conviction is a church captivated by Christ.*

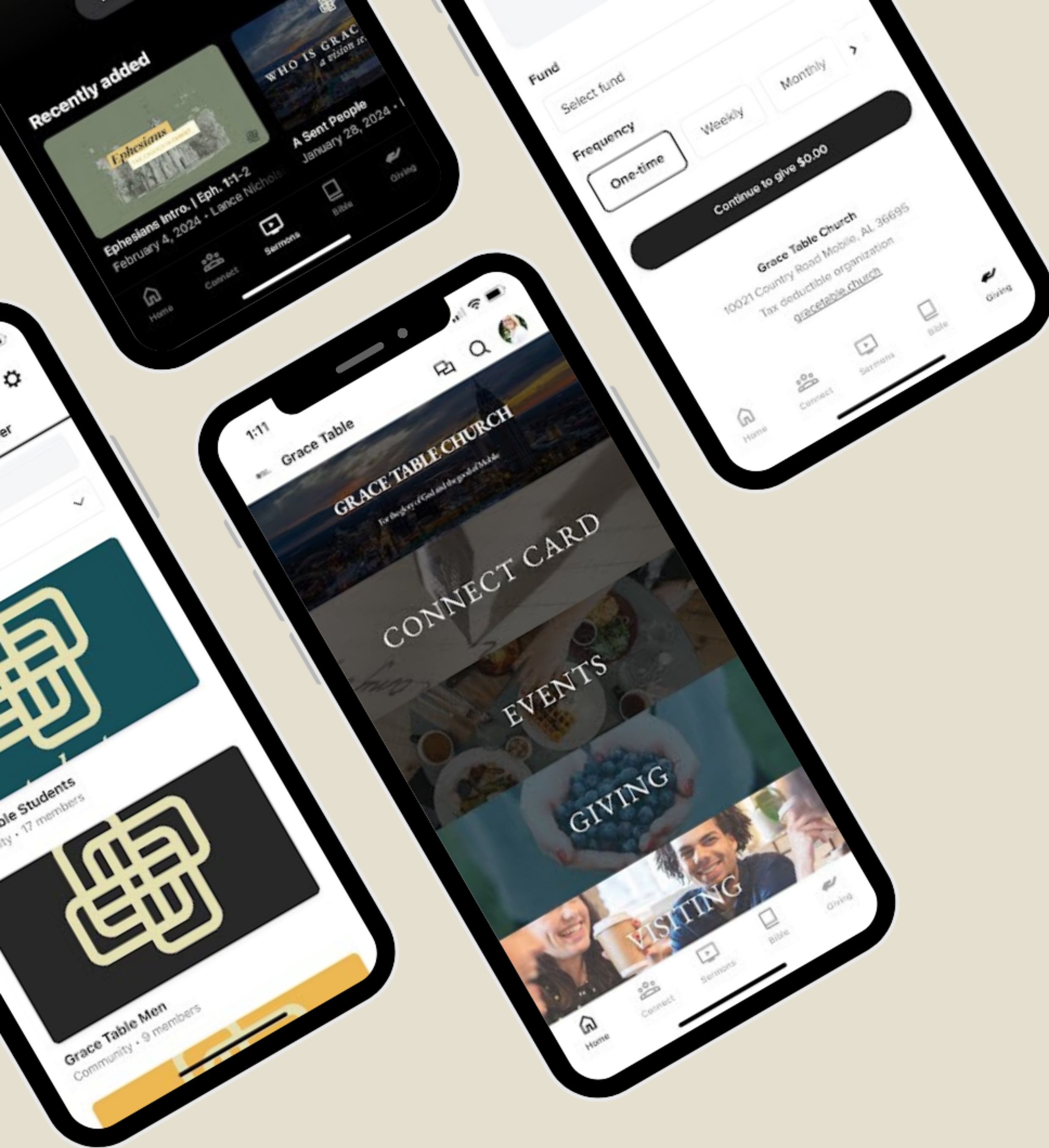




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men's BOOK STUDY

NEXT GATHERING, AUGUST 11TH
6-8 PM | HEMBREE HOME

the
PURSUIT
of
HOLINESS



SUMMER 2026 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

GALATIANS

For Freedom You Set Me Free

NEXT GATHERING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 13TH | 6-8 PM
VOA FACILITY





MEN'S SUMMER

WORK DAY(S)

AT NEW FACILITY

NEXT ONE, AUGUST 15TH / 8 AM



UNIVERSITY OF MOBILE

CHURCH PICNIC

08.18.26 | 5:30 PM | RAM HALL



BENEDICTION

Leader:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

-2 Corinthians 13:14

People:

And also with you.



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