

PRC Community Groups

Providence Road Church



Sermon Series: To the Ends of the Earth

Message: Effective Gospel Ministry In the Face of an Idolatrous Culture

Passage: Acts 19:21-41

Date Preached: May 12th, 2013

Going Deeper

1. Why would the message of the gospel cause a “no little disturbance” in verse 23? In what cultural ways would it affect the city of Ephesus?
2. Who was the goddess Artemis? How did her deification shape the culture in Ephesus? Economically, Socially and Religiously?
3. What was Demetrius’ understanding of the Apostle Paul’s message? Why would he feel it necessary to call a meeting with the other silversmiths? What was the concern?
4. What is Idolatry?
5. Why was it important for Paul to identify and expose the idols of the people and culture as he shared the gospel from place to place? Give other examples from the book of Acts where he did such thing.
6. The town clerk, was successful in bringing temporal peace and religious tolerance among the people? Do you feel idolatry and the truth of the gospel can co-exist in the hearts of men? Why or why not? What are the consequences when men worship at both alters?

Application

1. Has today’s Church had any relevant gospel impact in the culture? Explain.
2. Have you identified any idols in your own heart? If so, what are they? How have they affecting your walk with the Lord?
3. What do you need to believe about God in order to destroy those personal idols?
4. Share one personal prayer request. Where does God want to change you? What does God need to reveal to you? Where are you struggling? *[Let’s strive for personal prayer requests that seek spiritual growth and allow us to carry each other’s burdens. Let’s work in getting beyond the superficial. Example: Instead of asking your group to pray for the neighbor you’ve been wanting to invite to church, ask your group to pray for your struggle in sharing the gospel with them because of your “fear of man”, your indifference towards them, your lack of prayer on their behalf, etc.]*