

Living Waters Chapel
~ SERMON NOTES ~
Pastor Christopher J. Light
Sunday, September 1, 2019

SERMON SERIES: “*The Early Church*”

SERMON TITLE: “*Turn from Idols, Turn to God*”

SCRIPTURE: Acts 19:23-41

INTRODUCTION: These verses show us the results of turning from idols and turning to God. A heart that is fully surrendered to God is a heart that is ripe for accomplishing His plans and purposes for their life.

AGAINST THE FLOW (vv. 24-26)

When an individual fully surrenders their heart to God, they face the truth. What truth? The truth that their life is filled with idols.

What is an idol? An idol is anything we depend upon to meet the deep needs of the heart. What are the deep needs of the heart? Love, security, worth, or significance.

They rejected all other idols and served the living and true God.

FALSELY ACCUSED AND ATTACKED (vv. 27-29)

The followers of Jesus:

- caused a revolution.
- were prepared for spiritual warfare.
- shared a message of hope and healing.
- spoke life and desired to see others live in freedom.
- encouraged others and built them up in their faith.

COURAGE AND WISDOM (vv. 30-31)

Dictionary.com defines courage as: *the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, and pain, without fear; bravery.*

Dictionary.com defines wisdom as: the quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action, discernment, or insight.

MOB MENTALITY = PERSECUTION (vv. 32-34)

What is the mob mentality? People suspend their better judgment and stop thinking logically. They fall in line with the group and feed off a collective sense of power or rage.

BARRIERS TO TRUTH (vv. 35-41)

- The people refused to consider the truth about Jesus because of their blind devotion to Artemis.
- The people refused to consider the truth about Jesus because they were more concerned about their economic well-being.

We must ask God for ears to hear the truth and to give us courage to go against the flow while living out the truth.

CONCLUSION: We must remember that when we face persecution, opposition, or trouble, God has the power and authority to deliver us.

GOD'S PRESENCE = DELIVERANCE