

The Triumph of Christianity

Acts 19:21-41

Intro: Paul's message "*that gods made with hands are not gods at all*" had seriously damaged the idol-making industry of Ephesus. Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, incited his fellow craftsmen to join him in an attempt to silence Paul's pro-Christian message. The town clerk silenced the mob, and Paul departed for Macedonia.

I. Paul's Concern for the Saints 19:21-22

- A. His concern for the new believers of Macedonia and Greece: *Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth* (v. 21a)
- B. His collection for the famine relief of the Jerusalem church: See 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 and Romans 15:20-28 (v. 21, 22)
- C. His commitment to visit Rome on the way to Spain: See Romans 1:10-17; 15:20-28 (v. 21b)

II. Paul's Conflict with Demetrius and the Idol-makers 19:23-41

- A. The reason for the riot—Demetrius' defense of Artemis and idolatry (vv. 23-28)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
- B. The rejection of Paul and Alexander's attempts to address the crowd 19:30-34
- C. The rebuke and dismissal of the crowd by the town clerk 19:35-41

Applications

- 1. Spiritual success in Christian service is *always* met by Satanic opposition and retaliation!
- 2. May each of us discover the power inherent in the name of Jesus Christ, a power that is able to deliver us from bondage to Satan, and to our old sinful ways (see Ephesians 6).
- 3. My prayer for each of us is that we might grow in our desire to love and to serve Jesus!

The ABC's of Horizon Christian Church

- * *Acquire the knowledge of the Son of God*
- * *Become mature in Christ, and be . . .*
- * *Competent to teach and to train others!*