



“The Problem with Idols”

Acts 19:23-41 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
May 31, 2026

Introduction – *The apostle Paul continues on his third missionary journey in Asia, where he runs into trouble in the city of Ephesus.*

I. The Gospel’s Threat to Idols.

- A. Paul caused a great disturbance in Ephesus when people started to believe in Jesus as a result of his preaching.
- B. As a result of the Gospel, people in Ephesus were turning away from idols.
- C. This upset the idol-making economy in Ephesus.
- D. A huge part of the Ephesians economy was the temple of Artemis, considered one of the seven wonders of the world.
- E. Demetrius, the silver smith, rallied other silver smiths to complain to the civil authorities about what Paul was doing.
- F. Paul issues a persuasive argument against idolatry.

II. The Problem of Idols.

- A. An idol is anything apart from God that we turn into an ultimate thing that we can’t live without.
- B. We cannot create our own gods. There is only one God, the Creator of all.
- C. Jesus and the Gospel is a threat to all idols, ancient and modern.
- D. The gods we make are powerless, will disappoint us, and ultimately harm us.
- E. Idols become a very destructive force in our lives.
- F. The real problem with idolatry is the idolater.

III. The Gospel’s Power over Idols.

- A. Those who believed the Gospel turned from idols to serve the living and true God.
- B. Jesus conquered the power and forces of darkness behind the idols.

Conclusion.