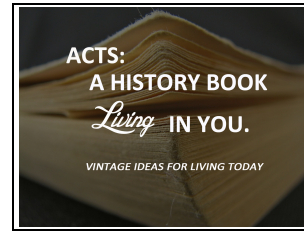


Notes:

Sierra Community Church June 29th, 2014-Dan Wilvers



Part 21:  
Acts 19:23-41  
**Idolatry: What is it?**  
**How does it concern me?**

## I. Idols are very \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Riot at Ephesus:**

24 A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there. 25 He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: “You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business. 26 And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that “gods made by human hands are no gods at all.”

**Paul preached against idolatry as part of his gospel message. In last week’s message we saw Paul do this in Athens before the Aeropagus**

Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, 25 and human hands can’t serve his needs...Acts 17:24,25

**What is an idol? Hint: They are almost always “good” things.**

If there is anything that is more important to your happiness, your hope, your identity, that thing is then functionally your god.

## II. Idols are a strange mix of both

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28 When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" 29 Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, and all of them rushed into the theater together.

- The power of our idols leads us to protect them fiercely.

35 The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: "Fellow Ephesians, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven?"

36 Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to calm down and not do anything rash. 37 You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess.

- The weakness of idols—they never produce lasting peace

The religious "idol" says I'll earn my salvation.

The Secular "Idol" attempts to justify their existence so they won't have a wasted life.

## III. We defeat our idols at a \_\_\_\_\_

Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. 31 Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater.

Acts 19:30,31

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

...(Jesus) disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. Colossians 2:15

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:13,14

### How do we defeat our "idols"?

**1<sup>st</sup> Step-** It's not about loving the good things we have in life;

it's about \_\_\_\_\_ in proportion to those things.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Step:** You must look to Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for you.

We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) Romans 8:23-25