

Acts of the Apostles
Ephesus (Part 2) (Acts 19:21-41)

IV. Paul's Conflict with the Craftsmen of Ephesus (vs. 21-41)

-Ephesus: the center for the worship of Artemis (Diana)

-Preface: Paul's Plans to Go to Rome (vs. 21, 22)

A. The Cause of the Conflict (vs. 23-27)

-Demetrius the Silversmith: "Paul is bad for business, the temple, Artemis."

B. The Continuation of the Conflict (vs. 28-34)

-Demonstration in the amphitheater (v. 29)

-Gaius of Derbe in Galatia (Acts 20:4)? Or Corinth in Achaia (Rom. 16:23; 1 Cor. 1:14)? Or both?; Aristarchus of Thessalonica (Acts 20:4)

-Alexander the Jew (vs. 33, 34)

C. The Conclusion of the Conflict (vs. 35-41)

-City Clerk: Everyone knows about Artemis. No guilt has been established. All further proceedings must be lawful.

Practical Lessons

- 1) Even the most impressive and entrenched false religious traditions are not able to stand against God and His truth.
- 2) Both Christian life and ministry involve a mixture of difficulty and success (Gal. 6:9; 1 Cor. 15:58).

3) God is often pleased to overrule seeming setbacks for the advancement of His kingdom.