

S.G. Study Guide: *To the End of the Earth.* Acts 19:21-41

Opening Thought: This week looks at the worldview clash of the gospel and idol worship. What types of idols might one find in America today? How do people respond when we point this out?

1. Ephesus: Paul defending the Way and denouncing idolatry. (Acts 19:21-29)

- Paul sent two helpers to Macedonia. How can we see this ministry approach in modern times? How do we see it happening at Grace Mahomet? Does this encourage you?
- What are the two instances in Acts that Gentiles rebelled against the gospel? What was the root cause for this rebellion? How does this compare to our culture today?
- Who was Artemis? How important was she to the Ephesians? Can you think of examples of a modern day Artemis in America? How must we respond?
- What do we learn about Paul's ministry? How was it effective? What do we know about his reputation?
- How can we better understand the gospel through the steps of identification, substitution and addition? Take time to discuss each step.
- Why was the crowd enraged? Who started it? How was Paul willing to respond? Who stopped him and why is this both interesting and powerful?

2. Ephesus: Confused crowd calmed by the labyrinth of false religion. (Acts 19:30-34)

- The assembly was confused, yet enraged and willing to act. Compare to modernity, how do we see this today?
- What is the argument of the Town Clerk? While it brings peace in Ephesus and gives Paul freedom to minister, how does it totally ignore the clashing worldviews? How might we see this today? How can we respond to such a clashing in our own lives?
- How might we see the paradox of the Town Clerk's argument that creates a religious labyrinth?
- Discuss various applications we can make from this passage.