

Paul Visits Ephesus

This week we learn how Paul confronted the Ephesians' about their idol worship of Dianna.

‘(At Ephesus) fear (respect towards God) fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed (their sins to God)... ’ Acts 19 v17,18.

Bible Readings for this week

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Acts 19v1-20 (Paul preaches the Gospel in Ephesus)	
Monday	Acts 19v21-41 (The crowd chant, “Great is Diana”)	
Tuesday	Acts 20v1,v13-27 (The Whole Council of God preached)	
Wednesday	Ephesians 1 (All things put under Christ’s power)	
Thursday	Ephesians 2 (Believers - quickened by The Holy Spirit)	
Friday	Ephesians 3 (For Christ to dwell in our hearts by faith)	
Saturday	Ephesians 4v17-32 (Learn of Christ – love, kindness)	

Important Lesson for us today: *Should we follow the crowd? OR should we have our own convictions and belief? – The crowd is usually wrong, so do not be influenced by the worldliness of this age. Today, the vast majority reject the truth about God and the way of forgiveness that He has provided. You may not worship a physical idol, but Satan tries to confuse us with man-made religion, even to worship a ‘god’ of our own imagination.*

Hymn 579 : Can you sing, or say, these words meaningfully, with sincerity?

1. Jesus, my Lord, my God, my All, 3. Jesus, what didst Thou find in me
Hear me, blest Saviour, when I call; That Thou hast dealt so lovingly?
Hear me, and from Thy dwelling-place How great the joy that Thou hast brought,
Pour down the riches of Thy grace: So far exceeding hope or thought:
Jesus my Lord, I Thee adore; O make me love Thee more and more.

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

Paul Declares The Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Ephesians.

• Paul Arrives in Ephesus and Finds: -

- Ephesus - another magnificent, prosperous city, but a proud city - filled with superstitious worshippers of an idol who had ‘blessed’ their city - ‘The Goddess Diana’, believed by them to be ‘an image which had fallen down to earth from Jupiter’.
- A temple had been built in her honour, out of costly, beautiful white marble.
- Every family had a silver image of her in their home – afraid to live without it.
- They superstitiously paid large sums of money for ‘magic scrolls’ to ensure she would protect and help them against life’s dangers – sickness, earthquakes, etc.
- Even today many people are attracted to superstitious cults and false religions.

• Paul Preaches A New Message which is Blessed of God: -

- Paul preached the Gospel for 2 years – ‘all in Asia heard, both Jew and Greek’.
- Many believed and were converted - trusting alone in Jesus Christ as Saviour.
- But there was much opposition encouraged by Demetrius, a silversmith.
- Caused a Riot – ‘**Great is Diana of the Ephesians**’ was chanted for two hours.

• The Changed Practices of Those Who Were Converted: -

- **These Now Sincerely Believed The Gospel of The Lord Jesus Christ.**
 - They immediately stopped believing the foolish tales about the lifeless idol Diana.
 - Now they believed and worshipped the One True God, Creator of Heaven, and Earth.
 - Trusting in Jesus Christ - Who, as perfect Man, had died for their sin and risen again.
- **They Confessed Their Evil Ways To God and To Each Other.**
 - They confessed their sins in detail to God in repentant prayer, asking for forgiveness.
- **They Burned Their Books and Destroyed Their Silver Idols of Diana.**
 - In doing this they showed their fidelity to God – trusting Him wholeheartedly.
 - All the past errors were disposed of, put behind them, even at great personal cost.

• Becoming a Christian Means: -

- We sincerely ask The Lord to be our Saviour and Lord, believing He died for us.
- We stop believing wrong ideas – that we are good enough to enter Heaven without repentance and forgiveness; that we can live successfully without God.
- We acknowledge our heart sins to God (our pride, selfishness, unclean thoughts, anger, disobedience, lies, stealing, covetousness) - repent of them, seeking God’s help to hate them, and to resist when we are tempted to fall back into them.
- We leave off all foolish superstitious notions of religion and ‘idol’ worship.
- We stop looking to this world’s entertainments for our joy and happiness.
- We seek to worship God, serve Him obediently – attending church, being Baptised.

Paul later wrote to the Ephesians, ***“As the truth is in Jesus ... Put off the ‘old man’ (old way of life) ... Put on the ‘new man’, (the likeness of Christ), which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness”.***

Ephesians 4v21-24.