



INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

CULTURE WARS

PASSAGE OVERVIEW

The faith of the new Christ followers in Ephesus produced real life fruit. This was more than a change of belief system. Their lives changed. Their practice changed. And it was this outward shift in the way they lived, driven by the prevailing Word in their lives, that impacted the city at large.

Their sole allegiance to Christ means that they no longer purchased figurines of Artemis. The cult of Artemis was so dominant in this city, that the economic impact of Christians who changed their buying practices sent tremors through the economy. True faith creates true life change that cannot be hidden.

As you read, notice that although the city was in turmoil, the Christians were not. In fact, the Christians simply wanted to use this opportunity to share the truth of what they believed about Jesus with those who opposed them.

When the town clerk stood up to speak, trying to quiet the raucous crowd, he specifically stated that the Christians had not spoken inappropriately about their traditional religion. The Christians had not become belligerent or caustic in their speech. It was their lives, completely committed to Christ, that so impacted their society.

In what tangible ways is your life different from the lives of unbelievers around you? Has your faith in Christ caused you to act differently than others who do not follow Him?

READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Acts 19:21 – 20:1

HighlandPark
Baptist Church

hpbc.cc • 28600 Lahser Rd • Southfield, MI 48034 • 248.357.5464 • info@hpbc.cc

I. The preaching of the Word. (18:19 – 19:10)

- A. Planting seeds (18:19-23)
- B. Keeping the whole gospel whole. (18:24-19:7)
- C. Paul's bold, reasoned, persuasive teaching of the Word. (19:8-10)

II. Confirmation and Counterfeit (19:11-16)

III. The Word plus nothing. (19:17-20)

When the Word prevails, nothing can remain in our lives that competes with Jesus.

Who/what masters you?

- A. Serious faith. (19:17)
- B. Believers confessed hidden practices. (19:18)

Syncretism has no place in our lives.

Secret lives cannot continue.

- C. Burning the past. (19:19)

How does this apply to me?
