

Series: Gospel Culture

Text: Acts 19

January 4, 2015

Title: The Gospel Disrupts: How Jesus Confronts Our Idols

1. THE GOSPEL IS SUFFICIENT (vv. 8-10)

What do we mean by "The Gospel?"

In this case, more than just the specifics about Christ's death and resurrection (as glorious as that is!) but the entire work of Christ, and it all of its implications in the world, the church and our lives.

The results of patient, slow, methodical explanation (teaching and preaching) of God's Word—the Gospel.

For some, it will offend and repel—others, it will draw and save. Martin Luther said this about the power of God's Word:

"I simply taught, preached, wrote God's Word: otherwise I did nothing. And then, while I slept or drank Wittenberg beer with my Philip of Amsdorf the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that never a prince or emperor did such damage to it. I did nothing: the Word did it all."

2. THE GOSPEL CLARIFIES (vv. 11-20)

Notice the effect of the beat down. It did not cause fear of the demons, but fear of God! It had the effect of clarifying for the nominal Christians and the on-looking culture what true faith in the real God looked like and it exposed imposters.

- 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

3. THE GOSPEL DISRUPTS AND CONFRONTS

Has the Gospel disrupted and confronted us?

The Good News is not a sweetener we add to lives (like cream to coffee) that makes life more palatable. It is a freight train of God's supremacy that comes to collide with our lives and demolish our idols and rebuild our affections and reorient them on Christ—the only thing that will satisfy and bring true joy.

4. THE GOSPEL SHOULD PRODUCE GOSPEL CULTURE

After two years of Paul's faithful labor and planting of the gospel in Ephesus eventually resulted in a strong and thriving church in Ephesus. The beginning was certainly tumultuous and confrontational, but we get a sense of the gospel culture of the church in Ephesians when Paul writes and commends them for their love for one another.

- Ephesians 1:15-17