

Christianity is Dangerous

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Acts 19:21-20:1.
- B. A Christian is one who is completely fearless, continually cheerful and constantly in trouble.
- C. Paul attacked spiritual strongholds with weapons of truth, love, righteous behavior and faith expressed in prayer.
- D. Beginning the Christian life is not enough—you need to live it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

II. What moved Paul.

- A. He wanted to revisit established churches.
- B. He wanted to penetrate Roman culture by going to Rome.
- C. He wanted to gather an offering for Jerusalem. (I Corinthians 16)

III. What caused Paul to change his plans.

- A. The stakes in Ephesus were being threatened.
- B. In attacking the temple of Artemas in Ephesus, the Christians were attacking the heart of the culture.
- C. The word of Demetrius.
 - 1. He was unaware of how ridiculous his charge sounded—if Artemas had great power, she would not need the defense of man.
 - 2. He was blind by the way the trade was ruined—no Christian had ever said anything against the superstition, people were just overwhelmed by the power of God.

IV. Paul did not hesitate a moment to take on a vast crowd that was upset at the changes.

- A. There was concern for Paul by the raging crowds.
- B. The town clerk subdued the crowds in order to keep the peace.
- C. The challenges that Paul would face was so that God would teach him and his companions that He is able to handle things when they are beyond human control. (II Corinthians 1:8)

Application questions:

1. How do Paul's motives demonstrate living in the power of the Spirit?

2. Were the events that caused Paul to change his plans outside God's will for him? Explain.

3. What was God trying to teach Paul in difficulty? How might God be doing the same to you in your present circumstances?
