Ac 19:21 After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

22 So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season.

23 And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.

24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

25 Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone **at Ephesus**, but almost throughout **all Asia**, **this Paul** hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

28 And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

29 And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught **Gaius and Aristarchus**, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

30 And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not.

31 And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theatre.

32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.

33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people.

34 But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

35 And when the **townclerk** had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter? 36 Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.

37 For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.

1. **The Way of the Lord** was falsely accused and attacked. Demetrius charged Paul and the Christians with being revolutionaries who were

•  destroying the livelihood and small businesses of all silversmiths in Ephesus.

•  destroying one of the leading businesses of the city (the temple of Diana).

•  destroying the tourist trade from Asia and the world.

The parallel—evil businesses of every generation is clearly seen in the charges made against Christianity. The business may involve such evils as drugs, alcohol, pornography, or gambling. But whatever the business, jobs and livelihoods are at stake; and when they are, emotions are easily aroused.

Demetrius stirred the silversmiths to move about and to incite the city against Paul and the believers. They were able to catch two of Paul's companions, 29-Gaius and Aristarchus, and drag them into the theatre. mob was "full of wrath," in a wild rage.

* Christianity does preach revolution, but not world revolution. It preaches spiritual revolution.
* Christianity does not preach physical violence, but spiritual violence.
* Christianity does not tell men to take up weapons of physical warfare, but weapons of spiritual warfare.
* Christianity does not teach destruction and death; it teaches spiritual conversion and life.
* Christianity does not destroy; it builds.
* Christianity does not force; it preaches freedom.

The charge was false. The Ephesians had no need to fear. The temple, as idolatrous as it was, would not be destroyed by the Christian believers; neither would citizens be coerced to follow The Way. The choice was each man's. No force whatsoever was involved. All Paul and the believers wanted was the right of free speech, the right to proclaim...

*God is* *God is love, life,liberty*. *God has revealed His love in His Son Jesus Christ*.

*God now invites men to love His Son Jesus Christ and to love each other, putting away every evil thing that hurts self and others*.

The Way of Christ is the best way for every society. Righteousness, love, peace, joy and justice always help and build society; they never tear down and destroy. Naturally some shock for a society to go through as it rids itself of evil professions and replaces them with good and healthy professions. But think of the glorious results—lives saved, maimed bodies prevented, crumbling families united, enslaved bodies delivered. Think of the health and strength of a society with no evil professions and no greed, a society with neighbors living for the welfare and love of each other.

By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked ([Proverbs 11:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+11%3A11)).

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people [Proverbs 14:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+14%3A34)

It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness ([Proverbs 16:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+16%3A12)).

Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness ([Proverbs 25:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+25%3A5)).

Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field ([Isaiah 32:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+32%3A16)).

In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee ([Isaiah 54:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+54%3A14)).

1. ([19:30-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+19%3A30-31)) The Way of the Lord requires great courage and wisdom. Paul and the other believers had naturally heard the uproar. "The whole city was filled with confusion," caught up in the riot. When Paul discovered that his two dear disciples, Gaius and Aristarchus, had been dragged into the arena...

•  note his courage: he rushed in and tried to save them.

•  note that some of the local officials restrained Paul. These officials were local representatives elected by a district to manage and oversee the public games and festivals of great cities. We do not know if the officials were believers, but they were at least friends of Paul.

 We all need the courage to rush to the aid of God's people when they are being ridiculed, abused, and persecuted for their faith. Too often, when a fellow believer is under attack, we sit quietly, fearing lest we are also turned against. The scene may be at work, school, neighborhood, or a host of other places; but no matter where, we must take a stand by the side of those being abused for Christ.

And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God" ([Phil. 1:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+1%3A28)).

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" ([2 Tim. 1:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+1%3A7)).

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" ([Deut. 31:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Dt+31%3A6)).

I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about" ([Psalm 3:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+3%3A6)).

Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident" ([Psalm 27:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+27%3A3)).

The lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?" ([Psalm 118:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+118%3A6)).

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord jehovah is my strength and my sons; he also is become my salvation" ([Isaiah 12:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+12%3A2)).

However, there are times when wisdom tells us to refrain from action. We are to be as Paul, willing to risk our lives for others, but not to foolishly endanger our lives.

Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly" ([Acts 19:36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+19%3A36)). If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" ([James 1:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+1%3A5)).

Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth" ([Proverbs 19:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+19%3A2)).

A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished" ([Proverbs 22:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+22%3A3)).

Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him" ([Proverbs 29:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+29%3A20)).

Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time" [Am 5:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Am+5%3A13)

1. ([19:32-34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+19%3A32-34)) The Way of the Lord was the object of mob action.

What happened next is interesting. Paul and Aristarchus were both Jews, so the Jews began to fear the mob might connect them with Paul and turn against them. The Jews convinced one of their own, Alexander, to stand before the crowd and speak against Paul and the Christians. But when he arose and lifted his hand to quiet them, the mob went into a frenzy, crying out "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." for two whole hours.

1)  some forsake the truth when worldly pressure is applied. The Jews were against the evil profession (idolatry) as much as anyone could possibly be, but they feared retaliation, so they backed off and refused to support the believers.

2)  how easily led and aroused the general public is by misleading and twisted information. Note what Scripture says:

Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the [majority] knew not wherefore they were come together" ([Acts 19:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+19%3A32)).

3)  Evil professions and men of greed will always work to incite the public against genuine believers. They will often use misleading and twisted information. It is the only way they can survive and continue to fill their pockets with their evil trade.

But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues" ([Matthew 10:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+10%3A17)). Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also" ([John 15:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+15%3A20)). For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake" ([Phil. 1:29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+1%3A29)). Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" [2 Tim. 3:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+3%3A12)

1. ([19:35-41](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+19%3A35-41)) The Way of the Lord was miraculously protected by God. How God overruled is clearly seen in the verses above.

In facing persecution, if it is God's will for us to be delivered He can and will use men of the world to bring reason to the persecutors and to violence. God overrules the spirits of men. We must always remember this when we find ourselves in the midst of trouble. [God] stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people" ([Psalm 65:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+65%3A7)). And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of" ([Genesis 28:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+28%3A15)). Fear thou not; For I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" ([Isaiah 41:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+41%3A10)). Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee" ([Isaiah 43:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+43%3A1-2)).

Ge 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Pr 10:29 ¶ The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

Isa 40:3 ¶ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Jer 5:4 Therefore I said, Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, nor the judgment of their God.

Jer 5:5 I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them; for they have known the way of the LORD, and the judgment of their God: but these have altogether broken the yoke, and burst the bonds.

Mt 3:3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Mr 1:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Lu 3:4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Joh 1:23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

Ac 18:24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.