

When Cash Determines Convictions **Acts 19:21-41**

When it's time to move on, 21-22

- Paul decides to move on, with Rome as his eventual goal. His decision is more than a personal desire (*Spirit* vs. *spirit*), see 23:11, 27:23. Rom.15:23-25 gives his main reason for going back to Jerusalem.
- When we need to “move on” should include God’s desire and not ours alone.

When one's convictions are too impacted by cash, 23-34

- Artemis of Ephesus is not identical to the Artemis of Greece (Roman Diana). She was a fertility goddess over childbirth and a great mother goddess. City craftsmen made a huge profit from her worship, cf. II Tim. 4:14.
- Consider the implications of Demetrius’ speech. Compare this to 16:16ff. and see Lk. 16:14, 19:45,46, 20:47, Jn. 12:4-6, I Tim. 6:5ff.
- Asiarchs were upper class civic rulers Paul had impacted in a positive way, and their helpful advice kept Paul out of a dangerous situation.

When just the right words calm a bad situation, 35-41

The city’s chief executive officer (town clerk) calls for rational action versus this chaotic, mob-like reaction to Paul and his companions. This is the second time Roman officials defend Paul/companions from those wishing to shut them down, see 18:12-17.

This episode should make us appreciate Paul’s work ethic and view of money. See 18:4, 20:34, 35, II Thess. 3:8, I Cor. 4:11,12.

Consider warnings about church leadership in I Tim. 3:3, 8, 6:9-11, Titus 1:7, I Pt. 5:2,3, Js. 2:1,4,9

How is the church doing today with not letting cash determine our convictions?

