

Recap of 5/29/22 message by Chris Sommerfield – Acts 19:21-41

1. *What we think about God will directly affect the way we understand our world and how we live.*

A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us...Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason, the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God. This is true not only of the individual Christian, but of the company of Christians that composes the Church. Always the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God.

—A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy (New York: HarperCollins, 1978), 1.

2. *A low view of God is demonstrated among Demetrius, and the rioters, even though it is still a consideration of a false god, the idol of Artemis. Here the low view of God is seen in panic and chaos. When The Way (the Christian Movement, both the group of people and their way of life) leaves idolatry for the one true God there is panic among the silversmiths due to a decrease in their business. When Demetrius says, "our prosperity depends upon this business" in verse 25 it reveals his dependance upon money, not his supposed god which he claims to serve. He continues to demonstrate a low view in the remainder of his speech to the silversmiths.*

3. *A high view of God is demonstrated in the life of Paul. He is willing to endure beatings and imprisonment for the sake of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. He speaks of contentment in even extremely harsh conditions (Philippians 4:10-13). Peter calls believers to live peacefully with excellent behavior and submission to those placed in authority and the reason is so that God may be glorified (1 Peter 2:11-17). This is a high view of God, one that rings of resolute steadfast faith in all circumstances. This is completely counter to the riot that we see in Ephesus in our passage.*

4. *We need to consider our own view of God. Do we have a high view or a low view of Him? Do our lives reflect steadfast faithfulness, or are they more characterized by greed, fear, lust, and panic? We also need to remember to have a complete view of God. We tend to over-emphasize one of His characteristics in our minds and we need to remember the fullness of who He is as He has revealed Himself to us. We remind ourselves of who He is through the reading of His word, prayer, and fellowship.*