

## Ephesus -Ephesians -Birth of the Church

1. Disciples of John- John the Baptist's Baptism. (Acts 19:1-7).  
Jesus and John or...or...NO.  
Jesus and HOLY SPIRIT.
2. Paul teaches... The Kingdom of God... The Way (of Jesus). The Disciples. Students.  
Apprentices of JESUS (19:8-10).  
Logos Word of THE LORD!
3. Through the hands of Paul, GOD did: miracles... healing... deliverance... Power!  
(19:11,12)
4. Use The Power of The Name of THE LORD JESUS as magic. No. Do Not! (19:13-16).
5. The Name of THE LORD JESUS magnified. All those who practiced magic, sorcery,  
witchcraft, charms, superstition, confessed, brought and burned all their books  
(19:17-19).

The Logos Word of THE LORD spread.

6. Now. A Disturbance. A Crisis. A Riot... (19:23-41).  
JESUS against Paganism, Gods, Idols...  
N.T. Wright. The Challenge of Acts, pp. 109f (2024).

The point about idols is that they are parodies of the truth. The sun is powerful and important. The sea is powerful and important. The erotic impulse in humans is powerful and important. The civic pride and status of somewhere such as Athens is powerful and important. But Zeus, Poseidon, Aphrodite and Athene do not actually exist. They are parodies of the wise provision of the Creator God. They are not the truth. They are at best pointers to the truth. To mistake them for that truth is to embrace a lie. To worship them is to distort your own humanness.

One of the great myths of modern secularism is that it's a kind of neutral space, in which we navigate our way by using our unaided reason. But there is no neutrality. As Bob Dylan said, 'you gotta serve somebody'. And once secularism pushes traditional Christianity upstairs out of sight, other gods quickly come in to take its place. Again, moving from Paul's world to our own, certain things stand out.

- Modern Gods: 1) Money. Mammon.  
2) Aphrodite. Erotic love. Sex (Pornography).  
3) Mars. Power. War. Killing.