

TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST



Ephesians



LifeGroups
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FALL 2026











Educational Background



Saint Leo University



University of Central Florida



**Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary**

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**If someone toured DFW today,
what would they conclude
matters most to the people
who live here?**













18 Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. 19 A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. 20 So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.

Acts 19:18-20 (NLT)





“Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. 26 But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren’t really gods at all. And he’s done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! 27 Of course, I’m not just talking about the loss of public respect for our business.



I'm also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and that Artemis—this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world—will be robbed of her great prestige!”
28 At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”



29 Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia. 30 Paul wanted to go in, too, but the believers wouldn't let him. 31 Some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering the amphitheater.



32 Inside, the people were all shouting, some one thing and some another. Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn't even know why they were there. 33 The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward and told him to explain the situation. He motioned for silence and tried to speak.



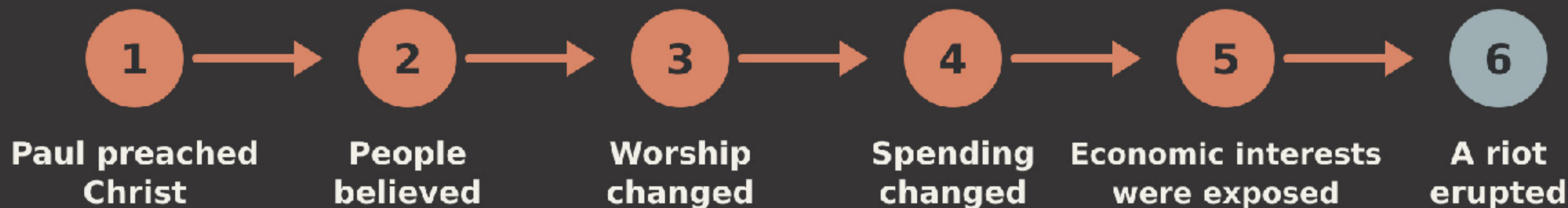
34 But when the crowd realized he was a Jew,
they started shouting again and kept it up for
about two hours: “Great is Artemis of the
Ephesians! Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

Acts 19:25-34



How the gospel challenged Ephesus

Acts 19:23-41



WHAT THE RIOT REVEALED

The city's idols had felt the loss of their customers.





16 I do not cease to give thanks for you,
remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God
of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may
give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in
the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your
hearts enlightened, that you may know what is
the hope to which he has called you, what are the
riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,



19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

Acts 1:16-19



20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 1:20-21



10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.



13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God,
that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,
and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand
therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth,
and having put on the breastplate of
righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet,
having put on the readiness given by the gospel
of peace.



16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith,
with which you can extinguish all the flaming
darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of
salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is
the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the
Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that
end, keep alert with all perseverance, making
supplication for all the saints,



19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:10-20



Ephesians is a more general letter, written to the church at Ephesus (the capital city of the Roman province of Asia) and then circulated to all the churches in the area.



Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful
in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:1-2



Who Was Paul?

Apostle - although he never served Jesus during His earthly ministry

Apostle “by the will of God” - Paul’s calling to his ministry was given by God alone



Who Were the Ephesians?

“Saints” - pointing to their identity in Christ

“The faithful in Christ Jesus” - a faithful church who followed Jesus and loved each other well



What Was Paul's Greeting?

“Grace” was a typical Greek greeting

“Peace” (shalom) was a typical Jewish greeting



Who Are You?

Our world constantly encourages us to build our identity around what we do, what we own, what others think of us, or what we've accomplished. But Ephesians reminds us that our identity is not something we create – it is something God gives us.



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