

Jesus Versus False Gods

Acts 19:21-41

Introduction

The pantheon of gods

If you follow Jesus, you will run afoul of someone else's god.

A. Paul's Plan to go to Jerusalem. 19:21-22

1. His plan. 19:21
2. His immediate actions. 19:22
3. My plans – God's plans...

B. The Big Riot. 19:23-41

1. The background of the riot. 19:23-24
2. The agitation of Demetrius. 19:25-27
 - a. Some observations...
3. The results of Demetrius' agitation. 19:28-34
4. The intervention of the city clerk. 19:35-41

C. Collision Course

1. Followers of Jesus will always find themselves on a collision course with their culture.
2. We as Christians believe there is only one God.
3. We also believe Jesus is the ONLY WAY to God.
4. Judaism and Islam claim to believe in the same God we do.
5. But neither acknowledges Jesus as the ONLY WAY.
6. There were many gods and goddesses in the Greek and Roman pantheon of gods.
7. And there are many gods in the American pantheon:
 - a. Money
 - 1) Clothing
 - 2) Cars
 - 3) Houses
 - b. Intelligence (Education)

- c. Pleasure
 - 1) Drinking-drugs
 - 2) Immorality
 - 3) Food
 - 4) Entertainment (including TV, sports, etc.)
- d. Nature
 - 1) Evolution
 - 2) Animals
 - 3) "Mother Earth" – Environmentalism
- e. Popularity
 - 1) Celebrity status (or notoriety)
 - 2) Peer pressure
- f. Power
 - 1) Politics
 - 2) Manipulating people to do what you want
 - 3) TOLERANCE of DIVERSITY
8. Only God can soften someone to follow Jesus.
9. If you decide to follow Jesus, you must put Him before all other gods.
10. Expect to encounter a lot of resistance from your culture if you follow Jesus.
11. Sometimes people will use the government to get you into trouble.
12. Sometimes the government will help you out.
13. Jesus is above all gods
 - a. If you follow Jesus,
 - b. You will run afoul of someone else's god.

THE MAIN IDEA: Always keep following Jesus, no matter who uses their god to try to stop you!

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C. Collision Course

1. Followers of Jesus will always find themselves on a collision course with their _____.
2. We as Christians believe there is only _____ God.
3. We also believe Jesus is the _____ WAY to God.
4. _____ and _____ claim to believe in the same God we do.
5. But neither acknowledges _____ as the ONLY WAY.
6. There were many gods and goddesses in the _____ and _____ pantheon of gods.
7. And there are many gods in the _____ pantheon:
 - a. Money
 - 1) C _____
 - 2) C _____
 - 3) H _____
 - b. Intelligence (E _____)

c. Pleasure

- 1) D _____ - _____
- 2) I _____
- 3) F _____
- 4) E _____ (including ____, _____, etc.)

d. Nature

- 1) E _____
- 2) A _____
- 3) "M _____ E _____" – E _____

e. Popularity

- 1) _____ status (or _____)
- 2) P _____

f. Power

- 1) P _____
- 2) M _____ people to do what you want
- 3) T _____ of D _____

8. Only God can _____ someone to follow Jesus.
9. If you decide to follow Jesus, you must put Him _____ all other _____.
10. Expect to encounter a lot of _____ from your culture if you follow Jesus.
11. Sometimes people will use the _____ to get you into trouble.
12. Sometimes the government will _____ you out.
13. _____ is above all gods
 - a. If you _____ Jesus,
 - b. You will run _____ of someone else's god.

THE MAIN IDEA: Always keep following _____, no matter who uses their god to try to _____ you!