

**Unhindered**  
**The Book of Acts**  
**Why People Oppose Good News**  
**Acts 19:21-41**

- **Introduction**
  - People oppose the gospel because of evil influence and confronting the reality of their spiritual condition. God however, rules over all.
- **When the church is effective, the spiritual powers go to work to bring about opposition.**
  - Ephesians 6:12
  - People are opposed to followers of Jesus because Satan is opposed to God's plan and purposes.
  - When we do not sense opposition, we should examine ourselves and determine whether or not we are doing anything significant enough to the Evil One to oppose.
  - The power in the church in Ephesus was not political, but spiritual. They proclaimed the gospel and demonstrated its power through their repentance.
- **Our enemy seeks to blind people's minds, and the gospel confronts people's sinful lifestyles.**
  - Satan blinds.
    - 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 1:13
  - Gospel confronts.
    - Paul's message to Demetrius and the rest of his fellow workers, should have had them ask, "Is what this guy is talking about true? If so, we need to find a new line of work."
    - The message necessarily confronts people with their sinful condition because if people do not believe that, then there is no need for a Savior in their own blind and darkened minds.
    - Our lives lived out in light of the transformational power of the gospel is also something that necessarily confronts people with the gospel.
    - Ephesians 4:1-3
- **God is sovereign and will protect His church and its mission against opposition.**
  - While it may be at times hard to understand, Satan can only go as far as God allows him to go. Example: Job, Peter, Paul.
  - Even in the riot in Ephesus, God protects Paul and the other believers.
  - God protects Paul and the church with the wise council of the city clerk (more like a mayor).
  - 2 Thessalonians 3:3-5
- **Conclusion**
  - "These early disciples were completely fearless, outrageously happy, and constantly in trouble." T.W. Manson
  - "The Church persecuted has always been the Church pure, and therefore the Church powerful. The Church patronized has always been the Church in Peril, and very often the Church paralyzed." G. Campbell Morgan
  - This account in Ephesus gives us some challenging questions to ask ourselves individually and as a church.
    - Should I be concerned that I don't sense that I am experiencing opposition from the enemy?
    - Are we more interested in political power than spiritual power?
    - Have I dealt with my own idols?
    - Are we a church that threatens the enemy?