

## Sermon Discussion Questions

May 21, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Steve Ruetschle

“God in the Heavens”

### **Acts 19:23-41**

Pastor Steve began by describing the religious climate of Ephesus when Paul and his companions came to preach the good news. A meteor had fallen in the area and the primitive people decided it must be a god, so they cut and shaped the meteor until it looked like their idea of a god and called it Artemis. They were so enthralled by their creation that they built a huge temple, the most impressive building in the ancient world, to worship it. And then they monetized it, selling statues of the god to tourists. They didn't want Paul to mess up their economy. No wonder they rioted.

It may sound silly to modern ears, but we can all think of recent ways that modern people do the same sorts of things. Sometimes we make gods out of creation and ignore the actual creator. We construct elaborate tributes to these gods, and we are quick to use them to make a buck. Take a moment to consider what, or who, in popular culture, has attained “little g” god status. (As opposed to “big G” God.)

Five ways “big G” God is defined:

Creator – Read **Colossians 1:16**

Omnipotent – Read **Psalms 135:6, Matthew 19:26**

Omniscient – Read **Hebrews 4:13**

Omnipresent – Read **Psalms 139:7-12**

Unchanging – Read **James 1:7**

In contrast, “little g” gods don't measure up. Artemis, the god the Ephesians were worshipping, had none of those attributes. We can only imagine how Paul must have felt when the Ephesians were completely against hearing what he had to say, all while knowing his God was so much better than their god.

Modern “little g” gods shout for attention every time we engage with the media. They can be very distracting, but even worse, their followers are passionate, like the rioting Ephesians. What does remembering the attributes of God do?