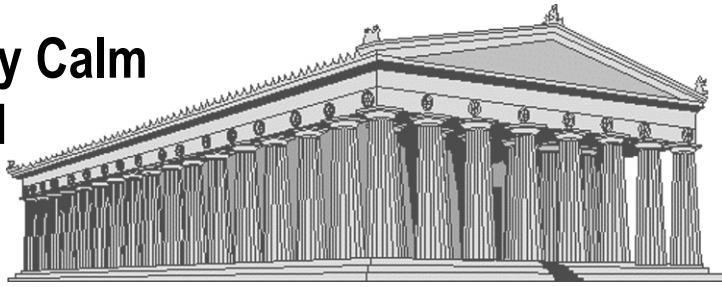


Stay Calm
and



Do Not Act Rashly

Acts 19:28-41

“Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter?” (*Acts 19:35*)

Ephesus was a city devoted to the worship of Diana (Artemis). It housed Diana’s temple, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. “Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly” (*Acts 19:36*).

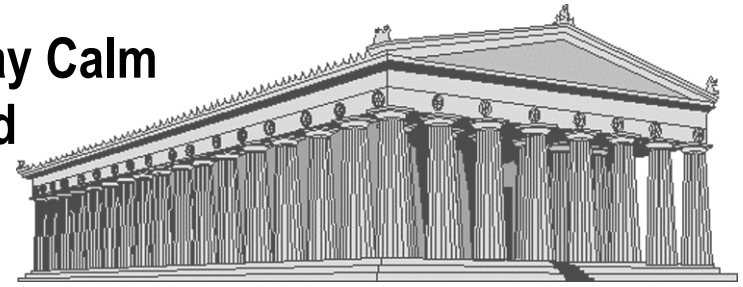
The phrase “cannot be spoken against” refers to something that is **undeniable**. In the mind of the town clerk, these things could not be contradicted or denied. He’s referring back to his statement in verse 35 about the city of Ephesus and its devotion to the goddess Diana. The people did not need to wildly defend Diana like a crazed mob. If she were truly a great goddess, couldn’t she defend herself? Why did her followers need to protect her name and reputation? Thus, the town clerk urged them to calm down, use restraint, and to do nothing in a rash, reckless or impulsive way.

Believers can learn a lesson from this. The true God, Creator of heaven and earth, does not need His people to run rashly to His defense. Moreover, it is not our responsibility to prove that God’s Word is true. Instead, we can simply trust our faithful God and use His powerful Word which God will stand behind 100 percent. If an enemy soldier accuses you of not possessing a sharp sword, you do not need to explain to him the composition of the metal or give details as to how it was made. **Just use it!**

As believers, we can stay calm and focused when among unbelievers. Let us use the sword of the Spirit, stand still, and allow God to do His work in hearts!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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