

BACKGROUND CHECK

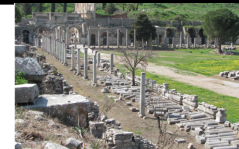
- How would you reach Ephesus as the only Christian in town?
- What would you do first? First week? First year? In 2 years?

- Paul's 3rd trip, staying 2 years! (Acts 19:10; 20:31); from prison in Rome
- Inscription: "a most illustrious city"; Strabo: "the greatest emporium in Asia"
- circular letter: "Ephesus" missing in most manuscripts (Eph 1:1)
- 1 Cor 15:32 "I have fought with beasts at Ephesus"
- 78 of 155 verses of Ephesians in Colossians
- "church" 9x!



HISTORICAL MARKERS

BC: 11th c. · Ionian 6th c.: Lydian king "rich as Croesus" · 3rd c.: Alexander the Great → Seleucids · 190: Antiochus the Great · Romans · Pergamum · 133: Attalus III | AD: 29 earthquake, Tiberius rebuilt · ☀☀ · 3rd c.: Goth invasion · 431: 3rd general church council: Mary = "Mother of God"



Agora - Market Place

The Temple of Artemis: "So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship" (Acts 19:27). Pausanias: "most worshiped in Mediterranean world" (Archaeological Study Bible).



Temple of Artemis

✓ Nike - Goddess of Victory; (ex-)Benefactors: statues with head chopped off, replaced



City Clerk Inscription: Erastus (Acts 19:22)



Temple of Domitian (81-96): 165x330 ft; Cult statue: 16-23 ft, 6ft arms



Amphitheater

OUTLINE OF EPHESIANS

in Christ > 35x!

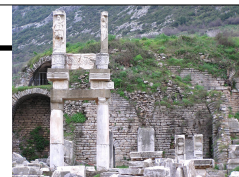
1-3 Belief: Vertical Reality & Relations no Imperatives

4-6 Behavior: Horizontal Reality: >35 Imperatives!

POINTS OF INTEREST

FATHER · SON · SPIRIT · CHURCH · WORLD · EVIL

- **Ephesians 1:3-14:** 202 words - longest sentence in NT!
"The whole of this first chapter of Ephesians contains precious instruction for every soul" (Ms 110, 1903).
- **Ephesians 2:** A New World Order! 1: **you** who . . . 4 **God** who . . .
- Temple Inscription:** "The outsider shall not enter the protective enclosure around the sanctuary. And whoever is caught will only have himself to blame for the ensuing death" (cf. Josephus, *Ant.* 15.11.5.417)
- **Ephesians 3:21 Amen!** Read chapters 1-3 out loud!
- **Ephesians 4: A Model for Ministry**
"I point you to the words of the apostle Paul in the fourth chapter of Ephesians. This whole chapter is a lesson that God desires us to learn and practice" (Ms 55, 1903).
- **Ephesians 5: Marriage** ... Wives, Submit?! Yes – to a man who acts like Jesus Christ!
Not submission to a male but to a Christian man!
Marriage is God's mirror of His love to the world!
Jesus to Ephesians: Rev 2:1-7 - "You have left your first love!"
- **Ephesians 6: Family**
"Parents, God desires you to make your family a sample of the family in heaven. ... One well-ordered, well-disciplined family is a greater power in demonstrating the efficiency of Christianity than all the sermons in the world" (Ms 31, 1901).
- **The Armor of God:** mostly defensive! Offense: Word of God! · 4x pray!
"If we have on the heavenly armor, we shall find that the assaults of the enemy will not have power over us. Angels of God will be round about us to protect us" (RH May 25, 1905).



Temple of Domitian



Library of Celsus



Basilica of John



Wrong Direction!

"When you believe you belong, and when you belong what's His is yours!" (Randy Roberts)

EPHESIANS 4: CHURCH MODEL - MODEL CHURCH?

"In the fourth chapter of Ephesians the plan of God is so plainly and simply revealed that all His children may lay hold upon the truth. Here the means which He has appointed to keep unity in His church, that its members may reveal to the world a healthy religious experience, is plainly declared" (Ms 67, 1907).

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:** ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, **and of the knowledge of the Son of God**, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: ¹⁴ That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ" (Eph 4:11-15).

"Local church ministry: performed by the people, not the pastor – and only under this model will the church reach maturity - with "the knowledge of the Son of God"! This is huge, as it would fundamentally change how we "do church". We have known this for years; implementing it is much more difficult since we have operated under a non-biblical model for so long. The apostles got it right from the start: **"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4).**

"The work of God in earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers" (GW 351-352).

"If pastors would give more attention to getting and keeping their flock actively engaged at work, they would accomplish more good, have more time for study and religious visiting, and also avoid many causes of friction" (GW 197-198).

"God has not given his ministers the work of setting the churches right. No sooner is this work done apparently, than it has to be done over again. Church members that are thus looked after and labored for become religious weaklings. If nine tenths of the effort that has been put forth for those who know the truth had been put forth for those who have never heard the truth, how much greater would have been the advancement made!" (7T 18).

"The ministers are hovering over churches, which know the truth, while thousands are perishing out of Christ. If the proper instruction were given, if the proper methods were followed, every church member would do his work as a member of the body. . . . They should be taught that unless they can stand alone, without a minister, they need to be converted anew, and baptized anew. They need to be born again" (GC Bulletin, April 12, 1901, p. 204).

"Sermons have been in great demand in our churches. The members have depended upon pulpit declamations instead of on the Holy Spirit. Uncalled for and unused, the spiritual gifts bestowed on them have dwindled into feebleness" (1 SM 127).

"The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him, not on the ministers" (7T 19).

"God's servants are to preach His word to the people. Under the Holy Spirit's working they will come into order as stars in the hand of Christ, to shine forth with His brightness. Let those who claim to be Christ's ministers arise and shine; for their light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon them. Let them understand that Christ expects them to do the same work as He has done. Let them leave the churches that know the truth, and go forth to establish new churches, to present the word of truth to those who are in ignorance of God's warning message" (6T 414).

Case Study: Yoido Full Gospel Church, Paul (David) Yonggi-Cho, 1 million+ members: small groups – even recommended Ellen White, *Gospel Workers* and *Evangelism* to SDA Pastor Craig Dossman!

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err" (7T 21).

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph 3:14).

"... till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph 4:13).