

THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS-NEGLECTED PRIORITIES.

Rev. 2:1-7.

Introduction:

- 1.The book of Revelation was sent to the seven churches of Asia-Acts 1:11.
2. Emperor worship had reached the eastern boundaries of the Roman empire.-Rev. 13:15; Rev. 14:9,10; Rev. 19:20.
- 3.This is a book that deals often with the subject of worship- Rev. 4:10; Rev. 22:9;
- 4.This problem of worshipped was a problem in Ephesus-Eph. 5:17-19.
- 5.Ephesus was the capital of the Roman province of Asia.
- 6.It was celebrated for the presence of the Temple of Dian, one of the “Seven Wonders of the World.”

7. Because of its great advantage in location it was adapted as a center for evangelistic work.
 - a. It was on the line of communication between Rome and the East.
 - b. It was one of the places where many side roads converged to feed the main route.
 - c. It was naturally marked out as the center where Paul would station himself.-Acts 19:10
8. The church started on Paul's third missionary journey -Acts 19.
9. In the spring of 54 A.D., Paul returned to Ephesus and joined Aquila and Priscilla and found "some disciples"-Acts 19:1.
10. Paul preached here for three years-Act 20:31.
11. He taught publicly and house to house-Acts 20:20.
12. The book of Ephesians was written around A.D. 62, the book of Revelation around A.D. 95.

Discussion:

I. Church at Ephesus.

a. By the time of Revelation over 40 years old. One generation had passed.

b. Declaration by Christ as He Walks among the churches-2:1

c. Deeds known-2:2-3

i. Dedication

ii. Detection

iii. Devotion.

d. Declension in the second generation of believers is evident-2:4.

i. Drifting from their first love-Eph. 1:15.

ii. Departure from their first love-Acts 20:30

e. Danger-A warning given-2:5

i. Remember

ii. Repent

iii. Removal could happen

f. Dividing Influence of the Nicolaitanes
opposed-2:6.

g. Delight in being an overcomer.

i. Conqueror of sin.

ii. Consistent message to most of
the seven.

iii. Contentment when all is over.