

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.