



Goodhope Ministries Bible Study

Jesus Christ Our Good Hope - II Thess 2:16

CLASS 5: SCROLL OF REVELATION THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN ASSEMBLIES/CHURCHES PART 2 THE LETTER TO EPHESUS

TIME PERSPECTIVES IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE ASSEMBLY/CHURCH AT EPHESUS:

Paul's letter
in Ephesians
c.e. 60-61

Luke's accounting
in Acts
c.e. 61

John's witness of
Christ's letter in Revelation
c.e. 96

HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE CITY OF EPHESUS:

Ephesus was the influential capital city of Asia Minor on the Aegean Sea. Ephesus is known for its huge metropolis of ancient streets, arches and ruins and had a 24,000 person amphitheater. Ephesus was a great city with a great harbor where the world's kings and emperors would come. It was one of the mightiest seaports in all of the Roman Empire. Now what was the port is 2 miles from the city. Gradually over time the Caster River filled the harbor with its dirt and silt. No one cleaned it out and it eventually filled up. The people were too busy to tend to it. The soil that filled it was the best. Since the city no longer had a harbor - it no longer served its purpose. Just like the Ephesians who performed good works, those good works/the silt replaced the love - Like the silt, good religion had replaced heartfelt love. Godly works replaced fervent passion.

It also was the home of the Temple of Artemis (Greek goddess), (later adopted as the Roman goddess Diana), was the goddess of fertility that controlled reproduction for humans, animals and crops. The Temple was known throughout the ancient world for its temple prostitutes and hedonistic (pleasure seeking) celebrations. Temple/goddess worship was also a major industry as well as religious and cultural way of life.

EPHESUS CHAPTER 2:1

The desirable church that left its first love. Ephesus is listed first in the churches possibly because of its great love in the beginning of its work for Christ and His followers. They are noted to lose their position if they do not repent.

TO: The angel of the church of Ephesus

FROM: The ONE who holds the seven stars in His Right Hand - The One who walks among the seven golden lampstands

- Ephesus is a compromised church
- Christ's Right hand representing HIS position of power, authority and safety
- One walking among the seven golden lampstands - Rev 1:13

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DEEDS:

- I know your deeds & your toil and perseverance
- You can not endure evil men
- You put those who call themselves apostles to the test
- You have perseverance and endured for My Names sake & have not grown weary
- You do hate the deeds of Nicolaians (a sect that practiced Baal worship, etc.)- see Rev 2:14 later

CRITICISM – I HAVE THIS AGAINST YOU:

- You have lost your first love
- Hands have been busy with the work of the kingdom – heads clear with the doctrine but their hearts were far from the Lord.
- The quality of their work is poor compared to the quantity they think makes it so.

EXHORTATION/URGING:

- Remember where from you have fallen (the place)
- Repent and do the deeds you did first
- Or I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place

REWARD IF THEY REPENT & OVERCOME:

- To Eat from the Tree of Life in the Midst of the Paradise of God.

FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS IN THE SCROLL OF EPHESIANS:

Ephesians

- 1:4 Their great Love
1:10 "at the completion of time..." One of the first places trusting in Messiah
1:13 They had been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise
A picture of how much had been given to them
Why Christ's letter said he would remove their lampstand
1:15 Paul addresses their great love – (what they would later lose)
1:22 ...completeness of HIM(Christ)...(= 7)
2:1-2 Authority of the air (Satan) & the counterfeit Anti-Christ Spirit
3:4-5 Mystery/Secret of Messiah began being made known to that generation
3:13 Paul doesn't want his imprisonment to cause them to lose their faith.
5:6-17 They were converts from dark worships & doctrines – Artemis worship
5:16* Christ is "redeeming the time – because of the days are wicked"
6:10-18 Full armament of God required for Spiritual Battle
6:24 Paul prays for them to have undecaying love in Messiah – their love did decay.

ACTS:

- Paul was in Ephesus 3 years Chap 18-21
19:10 Luke states all who lived in the province of Asia heard the Word of the Lord
19:22-41 Extensive description of the worship and temple of the goddess Artemis/Diana

MATTHEW:

- 24:12 ...The love many shall become cold
25:34-46 Love dispensed/Love withheld – the price & the reward