

Ephesus

Major Port City (Aegean), Asia Minor (Turkey), pop. 100-200 K

3 Major Roads (N, S, E) - Trade, Wealth

aqueducts, library, amphitheater (25 K) - Cultural Center

Greek City under Roman rule

Temple of Artemis (Greek)/Diana (Roman)

one of 7 Ancient Wonders of the World (4x size of Parthenon)

Significant in Early Church History

Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey (after Jerusalem Council)

Asia Minor - picks up Timothy (Acts 16:1-3), disciple of Paul (1 & 2 Thes)

Greece - resistance, persecution (jailed in Philippi)

Ephesus (Acts 18:19) - received in synagogue, encouraged to stay

promises to return after feast in Jerusalem

Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey

Ephesus (Acts 19:1) - stays 3 years (Acts 20:31) (52-55 AD)

3 mon synagogue, 2 yrs School of Tyrannus (Acts 19:8-10)

Timothy with him (Rom, 1 & 2 Cor)

Acts 19 - unusual miracles (handkerchiefs), Jewish exorcists (sons of Sceva),

many converts, burned magic books (\$5 mil),

riot in theater (silversmith Demetrius) - "great is Diana of the Ephesians" 2 hrs

Greece, then hurrying to Jerusalem

doesn't stop at Ephesus but sends for Ephesian elders from Miletus (unique)

acquits himself/warning (Acts 20:17-38) - "whole counsel of God"

Paul imprisoned in Jerusalem (57 AD), sent to Rome (59 AD), imprisoned in Rome (60 AD)

Timothy with him first two years (60-62 AD) (Philippians, Colossians, Philemon)

Paul writes Ephesians (Colossians parallel)

Timothy Bishop of Ephesus

Paul writes 1 & 2 Timothy (Rome/Macedonia?), asks Timothy to come to him (2 Tim 4:9)

tradition: went, returned when Paul martyred in Rome (67 AD),

Bishop of Ephesus until martyred there (97 AD)

Apostle John (Mary) to Ephesus before 70 AD destruction of Jerusalem (pastor?)

wrote 3 epistles, returned after Patmos

1st letter to churches in Revelation: good works, holiness, lost first love (intimacy)

Paul's 1st Epistle to Timothy (first 2 chapters - context)

Ch 1 - Sound Doctrine

Ch 2:1-8 Praying Men (prayer meetings?)

Ch 2:9-15 women (Ch 5 honor/respect)

(1Ti 2:9-15) 9in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. 11Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

1) adornment: modest apparel vs braided hair, gold/pearls, costly clothes

2) silent submission, no teaching or authority

3) Adam first, Eve deceived, saved in childbearing

Paul could have addressed #2 as doctrine in Ephesians and Colossians (marriage, church) only to Timothy because Cultural Application (Careful!)

Artemis: nature, fertility, maidens (virgin), childbirth, ability to author life, author of men

Peloponnesian Wars: Sparta defeats Athens (404 BC), gains influence in Greece

Athens: women property, subservient, not educated

Sparta: women have rights, educated, motherhood = military service

Athens: Parthenon & Athena

Sparta: Sanctuary of Artemis Orthia

Ephesus allied with Sparta (Battle of Notium 406 BC)

Gorgo Queen of Sparta (wife of Leonidas of Thermopylae)

“Why are you Spartan women the only ones who can rule men? Because we are also the only ones who give birth to men.”

Specifics of Artemis Worship (Ephesiaca - Xenophon of Ephesus, 50 AD)

1) devotion - braided hairstyle with pearls, wealth showed piety

2) women led, training included loud vocal debate

silent (Greek) can be translated quiet or tranquil

silent prophetesses? (10), Acts 2:17-18, 1 Cor 11:5

submission already covered (Eph 5, Col 3), to her man (not all)

greek translation vs 12 - “I do not permit teaching that women are the author of men.”

3) women came first (superior?), men brought evil, Artemis protects in childbirth

A good case can be made that Paul was specifically addressing Artemis worship.

It is unwise to establish dogma on a single debatable verse.

(only occurrence of authenteo - domineer)