

EPHESUS

THE STRUGGLE TO KEEP THE FAITH
(Part 1)

**Apostle Paul's
Third Missionary Journey
53 - 58 A.D.**



THE CITY

- Located on western coast of Asia Minor (Turkey)
- Important trade center
- Home of Temple of Artemis (Roman, “Diana”), 1 of 7 Wonders of Ancient World – 360 x 180 ft.

Temple of Artemis (Diana)



Ephesus Library Ruins



Paul & Ephesus - Beginnings

- 1st visited toward end of 2nd MJ, preached in synagogue; well received, promised to return later “if God wills” (Acts 18:19-21)
- Spent most of 3rd MJ in Eph (Acts 19)
- Longest time Paul spent in any one city

Major Events in Ephesus (1)

- Met 12 “disciples” who had only received John’s baptism; further taught & baptized them
- Preached in synagogue until they began to “speak evil of the Way”
- Taught daily in the “Hall of Tyrannus” for 2 years
- Result: Word of the Lord spread throughout Asia

Major Events in Ephesus (2)

- Encounter with “7 Sons of Sceva”
- Riot in Theater over impact of Paul’s preaching on the souvenir trade; Paul almost killed but escaped, then left the city
- Later, on way to Jerusalem (Acts 20), met with elders of Ephesus, predicted apostasy
- Left Timothy to cope with problem of false teaching; wrote 2 letters to him while there

Theater at Ephesus



Lessons from Ephesus (1)

1. Even when paganism & unbelief are strong, the gospel can have a powerful impact.
2. “Incomplete believers” need to be taught how to respond to the gospel fully.
3. Faithfulness to the gospel is never easy or automatic.