

## **CHURCH AT EPHESUS**

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### **CITY OF EPHESUS**

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#### **A. A CITY OF GREAT COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE.**

1. Ephesus lay at the mouth of the river Cayster, and therefore commanded the trade of the Cayster valley.
2. Plus the fact that 3 great roads converged at Ephesus. Trade from the Euphrates, to all of Asia Minor. (Rev. 18:12,13 might well have been spoken of Ephesus).

#### **B. A CITY OF GREAT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE.**

1. It was what we know as a “free city”, that is within bounds, self govern.
2. Did not have the indignity of Roman troops quartered upon it.
3. Was also called an assize town. Where the Roman governor tried the most important cases.
4. It was also the center of the Panionian Games. (Like Olympics).

#### **C. A CITY OF GREAT RELIGIOUS IMPORTANCE.**

1. Its greatest glory was the “Temple of Diana” (Artemis).
2. Greek saying ran: “The sun sees nothing finer in his course than Diana’s Temple.
3. In John’s time it was known as one of the seven wonders of the world.
4. Was 425' long, 220' wide and 60' high. With 127 Pillars each of glittering Parian Marble. 36 overlaid with gold and jewels.

#### **D. IN THE TEMPLE:**

1. We think of Diana as being lovely, but she was a squat, dark or black figure. To millions the most sacred thing on earth. (The silversmiths of Paul’s day.)
2. Don’t know for sure what it was made of, or from whence it came.
3. Behind the Idol was a safe deposit area where people placed their valuables.
4. It was also a place of asylum for criminals. If they could get within a distance of a bow shot (200 yards) they were safe.
5. The “Ephesians Letter”....Exorcism....make one strong...etc. (Acts 18 and 19, they burned the books.

#### **E. LET US REMEMBER THAT THERE WERE CHRISTIANS THERE.**

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### **I KNOW**

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#### **A. COMMON TO ALL THE LETTERS:**

1. What it implies (facts not speculation).
2. God is watching their progress.

#### **B. NOTHING ESCAPES HIS EYE.**

1. Same is true today.
2. Both to the individual and congregation.

#### **C. IS TRUE OF US HERE: (1) Have done.....(2) Have not done.**

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**THY WORKS****A. EVERYTHING ABOUT THEIR LIFE AND ACTIVITIES.**

1. Works used to mean entire life.
2. Sees the complete picture.

**B. THY TOIL AND PATIENCE....**

1. Toil - labor (I cor. 15:58). Toil unto weariness.
2. Are we sound in the faith...or sound asleep?
3. Patience - Steadfastness.
4. Do we measure out for ourselves tasks that are light & inadequate?
5. Do we want only the easiest and least demanding job?

**Thy Cannot Bear Evil Men****A. JOHN SPEAKS OF EVIL MEN.**

1. DIOTREPHESES; III John 9.
2. In church giving trouble.
3. Paul speaks in same way.

**B. SO EVIL MEN CAN BE CHRISTIAN THAT HINDERS THE TRUTH.**

1. By Doctrine.
2. By example.

**C. EVIL MEN LIVE AT CORINTH.**

1. Paul tells us what to do.
2. Not even to eat.

**D. HOW DIFFERENT FROM MANY CONGREGATIONS TODAY who have so many un-faithful and guilty members. And do nothing about it.****TRY THEM ...****A. TRY THEM THAT CALL THEMSELVES APOSTLES...find them false.**

1. Need to study.
2. The Bereans....more noble.
3. I John 4:1.

**B. DID BEAR FOR MY NAMES SAKE. (1) Suffer. (2) Endure.****CENSURE****A. GOOD DOES NOT BLOT OUT EVIL.**

1. Does not outweigh...
2. Or counter act.

**B. We cannot just go on our good works and forget bad.****LEFT THY FIRST LOVE****A. That which was first in their life is not longer.****B. No longer have the zeal and enthusiasm once had. \*\*Did not say they no longer loved him-But they didn't love as they had. Religion was lifeless**

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**COUNSEL**

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1. Repent and do thy first works; or else I come to thee, and will remove thy lamp stand out of its place, except thou repent.” **See bottom of page!**
  2. Work as they had done at first, with the same love.
  3. To remove their lamp stand means they would become extinct as a church.
  4. Destroy and there would be no more light.
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**PROMISE**

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1. “To him that over cometh, to him will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.”
  2. To over come is the same as “conqueror” (6:2).
  3. Paradise means; “park or pleasure - grounds”.
  4. It is here used to denote the Heavenly Eden, the realm of man’s restored state in the presence of God. **(The Tree Of Life)**.
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Doctrine of “once saved always saved” is completely refuted by this and other letters to the “7” churches.