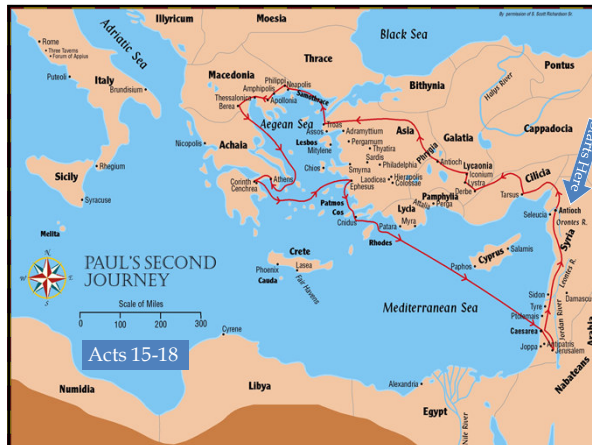


**EPHESUS: "I SHRANK NOT
FROM DECLARING UNTO YOU
ANYTHING THAT WAS
PROFITABLE..."**

Acts 20:20

The City Of Ephesus

- ▣ Influential commercially.
1. Lay in the Roman Province of Asia near the sea coast and the mouth of the Cayster River.
 2. Most accessible city in the Province. It had an artificial harbor that accommodated the largest ships. And was connected by highways with the chief cities of the province.
 3. Commerce and manufacturing flourished.



The City Of Ephesus

- ▣ Influential Religiously.
1. Known throughout the world for the worship of Diana and the practice of magic.
 2. A great temple was erected in honor of Diana.
 3. The rituals of the temple included sacrifices and sensual indulgences including prostitution. cf. Eph. 4:17-19

The City Of Ephesus



Diana

- ▣ Diana in Roman religion was the goddess of wild animals and the hunt. She is almost indistinguishable from the Greek goddess Artemis. An important center for her worship was located at Ephesus. The Temple of Artemis (Diana) in Ephesus was one of the Seven Wonders of the World. (from Bible Photos of the Holy Land)

The City Of Ephesus

- ▣ Ephesus provided an annual festival to the honor of Diana.
- a. There was much activity, entertainment and excitement. There were many games and athletic contests. Magicians, sorcerers and exorcists were abundant. Shrines of Diana were purchased by the thousands as souvenirs. cf. Acts 19:29-30

Basis of Paul's Concern

- ▣ Servant of the Lord. Vs. 19; cf. Eph. 3:7; Phil. 1:1; Rom. 1:1; cf. 1 Cor. 9:19
- ▣ The service concept is essential in soul-winning.
- 1. Jesus set the example in serving others. Mt. 20:28; Phil. 2:7
- 2. Christians are called to serve others. Mt. 20:26ff; Eph. 2:10
- 3. Our greatest service is in saving the lost. "RESCUE THE PERISHING."

The Characteristics Of Paul's Service

- ▣ **Humble Service.** Vs. 19 *"With all lowliness of mind."* cf. Eph. 4:1ff; Phil. 3:5-8; Gal. 6:14
- ▣ **Tearful Service.** Vs. 19 *"And with tears."* cf. Acts 20:31; 2 Cor. 2:4; cf. Eph. 4:30; Mt. 8:12
 - Ignorance. Acts 19:2
 - Blasphemy. Acts 19:9
 - Idolatry. Acts 19:28

The Characteristics Of Paul's Service

- ▣ **Trying service.** Vs. 19 *"And with trials."* cf. 2 Cor. 11:23-28; Acts 20:34; Eph. 6:10; 2 Tim. 4:5
- ▣ **Rewarding service.** Acts 19:10 *"All ... Asia heard the word."*; III John 4
 - This was Paul's reward. cf. 1 Thess. 2:19ff;
 - This was Paul's life. Phil. 1:21ff

The Extent Of Paul's Service

- ▣ He went to the lost. Acts 19:1ff; cf. John 4:35; Mt. 9:37-38
 - Visited Ephesus on his second journey.
 - Met the Ephesian elders on his third journey. Acts 20:17-18

The Extent Of Paul's Service

- ▣ He taught fearlessly *"I shrank not from declaring unto you..." vs. 20... "I shrank not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God."* vs. 27
 - *"Pure from the blood of all men"* vs. 26
 - Ezek. 3:16-21

The Extent Of Paul's Service

- ▣ He taught "*publicly and from house to house.*" vs. 20;
 - Public teaching. 1 Cor. 9:16; 2 Tim. 4:2
 - Private teaching. cf. Acts 18:26 Aquila and Priscilla

The Extent Of Paul's Service

- ▣ He taught all. "*Testifying both to Jews and to Greeks.*" vs. 21
 - Apostle to the Gentiles. Acts 27:17; Gal. 2:7
 - Preached to Jews. Acts 14:1
 - Admonished everyone. Acts 20:31
 - All lost. Rom. 1-3
 - Gospel for all. Rom. 1:16

The Extent Of Paul's Service

- ▣ He taught persistently.
 - Stayed in Ephesus three years. vs. 31
 - Been with them "*all the time.*" vs. 18
 - Admonished "*night and day.*" vs. 31

Paul's Passion For The Lost

- ▣ Romans 9:1-3 "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing pain in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were anathema from Christ for my brethren's sake, my kinsmen according to the flesh"
- ▣ Romans 10:1-3 "Brethren, my heart's desire and my supplication to God is for them, that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God."