

**Acts to Revelation**  
The World of the First Christians

**Session 11 – Paul’s Third Missionary Journey – Ephesus**

**Session Summary** –After spending time in Syrian Antioch, Paul left once more to travel the Roman Empire and share the Gospel message. Paul’s third missionary journey took him back through Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Pisidia Antioch. He visited churches and friends throughout the regions of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening the disciples as he went. Ultimately, Paul arrived at the incredible city of Ephesus. We will travel to Ephesus in present-day Turkey to share the accounts of Paul among the ruins and artifacts at this well-preserved site.

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” – Ephesians 2:8-10*

Ephesus was established as a Greek colony in the 10<sup>th</sup> century BC. The city came under control of the Romans in 133BC, and was made the capital of Asia Province by Emperor Augustus in 27BC. By the time Paul arrived, Ephesus had a population of about 200,000. It was considered one of the greatest cities in the Roman Empire, eclipsed only by Rome and Alexandria. Paul made Ephesus his temporary home during the reign of Roman Emperor Claudius. During his approximately 30 years of traveling ministry, Ephesus was one of the places where Paul stayed the longest.

**Scripture Reading: Acts 19 & 20**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Who was the Emperor of the Roman Empire when Paul arrived in Ephesus in late 52AD?
2. Where did Paul teach during his two years in Ephesus?
3. What structure in Ephesus was considered one of the seven-wonders of the ancient world?
4. Who lead the “Riot of the Silversmiths” against Paul and Christianity in Ephesus?
5. Where did Paul write his letter to the Ephesians?

**Scripture for Next Week: Acts 21-26**

