

CALL to PRAYER -

Pray we are kept from false teachers and a lack of love

Ephesians 1:1 - Profile of a Church

Intro - As a SBC church every year we fill out an ACP. This is basic information about our assembly...the people, the pastor, our attendance and giving. These items become our profile. Today we begin our tour through Ephesians, and we will start with a profile of this church. The church at Ephesus had a storied beginning. It witnessed many miraculous happenings. It had a great impact on their city & caused the name of the Lord Jesus to be honored even among the unbelievers. The church at Ephesus had high powered pastors and even received a personal note from Jesus Christ Himself. That church battled false teachers, worked hard in the kingdom, and held to sound doctrine. But that church, with such an awesome beginning...had an ending ...it no longer exists. I hope we grow spiritually as we contemplate the truths in Ephesians over the next months but let's begin by remembering how it all ended. They had the right creed but forgot about personal connection. They were battle hardened theologians who left off emotion. They were busy & believing but became way out of balance, so Christ took away their ability to be bright. They are no longer a local church which shines. I hope we can learn from the Book of Ephesians how we can shine better but I also hope by God's grace that we don't lose our light.

THE PLANTING OF THAT CHURCH

- Ephesus is located east of Greece on the west coast of modern-day Turkey.
 - Map
- Bald Paul came to Ephesus with Priscilla & Aquilla. Acts 18:18-19
 - Paul went to the synagogue - the gospel goes to the Jews first - Rom. 1:16
 - Paul left Ephesus but Aquilla & Pricilla remained.
 - They met Apollos there and discipled him. (Acts 18:24-26)
- Paul returned to Ephesus and met some baptized unbelievers -
 - Explained the gospel to them and they were re-baptized (Acts 19:1-7)
 - Believers baptism practiced in Ephesus - Only baptize those who the Spirit has baptized
 - Spoke in tongues (we will discuss this tonight)
 - Paul taught in a synagogue for 3 months then moved to a public school.
 - Acts 19:8-10
- God did extraordinary miracles in Ephesus though Paul. Acts 19:11-12
 - Apostle = someone directly sent by the risen Lord - 1 Cor. 9:1
 - Apostle = someone gifted by God with miraculous powers - 2 Cor. 12:12
 - Apostles spoke and wrote God's word. 1 Cor. 14:37 Eph. 1:1 1 John 4:6
 - To reject the Apostles teaching and writing is to reject Christ - Luke 10:16
 - **There are no apostles today.** Beware of those who claim there are.
- Accepting the gospel in Ephesus meant confronting the culture of Ephesus.
 - Magic books burned Acts 19:18-20
 - Kat von D (pic of baptism)
 - Coming to Christ means leaving old life- embrace Jesus = forsaking the world - Acts 20:21
- The church will always be in conflict with the world it is trying to win for Christ.

- Ephesus had a great Temple to Artemis/Dianna (one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world)
 - picture
- Preaching about the true God stirred conflict with a culture of many gods
- There was a riot in Ephesus because of the gospel.
 - Acts 19:28-29 (picture of theater)
- The church in Ephesus was in conflict with Ephesian culture – (we will be too)
 - Are we swimming against the stream or going with the flow?
 - Paul fought wild beasts at Ephesus - 1 Cor. 15:31-32 What are we fighting?

THE PASTORS OF THAT CHURCH

- The church at Ephesus had many high-profile pastors.
 - Priscilla & Aquilla did the groundwork.
 - God has given each of us different roles in the kingdom. 1 Cor. 3:6-8
 - Paul pastored the church for 3 years.
 - 3 months in a synagogue. 2 years in a school
 - Acts 20:31
 - Timothy pastored the church at Ephesus.
 - 1 Tim. 1:3
 - Tradition says that the Apostle John pastored that church.
 - Jesus had John send a personal letter to the church at Ephesus.
 - Rev. 2:1-7
 - Emperor Justinian built a church there in 6th century in John's honor.
 - ??? The Apostle John's burial site ???

THE PROBLEMS OF THAT CHURCH

1. Persecution from other religions and pressure from surrounding culture.
2. Church order / leadership / gender roles 1 Timothy deals with these issues
3. Money wealthy city 1 Timothy 6:9-10,17
4. False teachers
 - a. Acts 20:28-31
 - b. 1 Tim. 1:3-4 2 Tim. 4:1-4
5. Lost their first love.
 - a. Rev. 2:2-4 They battled the false teachers but lost their love in the process
 - b. When love is lost the light goes out. Rev. 2:5

THE APPLICATION FOR OUR CHURCH

- Application for me. This church profile was very convicting to me
 - I am a doctrine guy...focus on truth, having correct beliefs, confront falsehood...
 - 1 Tim. 1:3-5 "...the goal of instruction is love..."
- I pray we greatly benefit meditation on Ephesians...this book is so rich...
 - 1 Cor. 8:1c Knowledge puffs up but love builds up
 - 1 Cor. 8:2-3 1 Cor. 13:1-2