

EPHESIANS

Lesson 5

Background: (Dates are approximate but give an idea of the time that elapses)

We first learned about the Church at Ephesus in Acts 18 (around 53 AD). Paul would return and spend 2 years in ministry there (Acts 19; 53-55 AD). He would meet with the elders on his way by, concluding his 3rd missionary journey (Acts 20; about 56 AD). The Apostle Paul would write to them again during his imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28; Book of Ephesians; between 60-62 AD). The last mention of the church was in a message from Jesus to John on the Isle of Patmos (Revelation 2:1-7; around 90 AD).

Revelation 2:1-7

Nicolaitans: Various theories on what this group taught and practiced. One focuses on “sexual immorality,” “love feasts”. This would make sense given the background and temple of Diana that might hold influence. It is suggested that they felt that this was prohibited by Moses under the law, but since Jesus freed us from the law, there was no longer prohibition. Another belief is that the Nicolaitans practiced “victory over the people”; and was the beginning of a hierarchy in the church. This is based on the greek background of the word and history .

Did you notice:

What they were commended for?

What they were called to change?

Promise they were given if obedient?

What lessons does this provide for the church/Christians today?

What lessons do we learn from their development and history?