

REFLECTIONS ON FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL TOUR



Athens (see Acts 17:15-22)

- Mars Hill – Paul spoke about “the unknown God”
- Parthenon

Reflection: Each piece of marble was cut uniquely to fit together once placed on site of the Parthenon. They did this perfectly so the gods would be pleased. It held together completely until there was a bombing. They tried to put the pieces back together, but it began to deteriorate. 1 Corinthians 12:12 and 27 says that every person is special and collectively we are the body of Christ. We are the temple of Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). We are built to please God. We each have our place



Athens in the days of Paul

Ephesus (See Acts 19:18-20)

- Temple of Diana/Artemis
- Paul spent 2 years at Ephesus

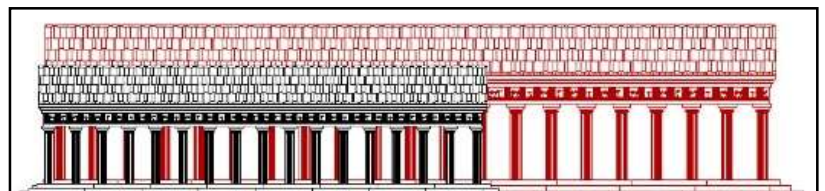
Reflection: Temple of Diana/Artemis was 4x the size of the Parthenon in Athens! City officials set aside one month to celebrate this deity (festivals). I see the parallel to Pride month (celebrating the sin of homosexuality and lesbianism). God’s message penetrated a world in which idolatry was celebrated in abundance.

Paul was bringing a message that caused people to leave their sorcery (something forbidden in Deuteronomy 18:9-13). Acts 19:19 says they threw in the fire 50,000 silver coins worth of witchcraft books. Charles Swindoll said 50,000 silver coins represented a drachma – 1 day’s wage (equal to today 8 hours of work) = 800,000 work hours. I carried it further and imagined if they made \$20/per hour, that would equal today = \$16,000,000!!

How are we attacking the work of satan in our world?



Temple of Artemis in Ephesus



Size comparison:

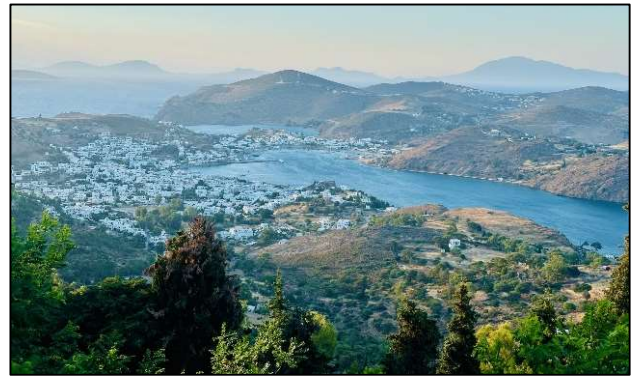
Black = size of Parthenon in Athens

Red = size of Temple of Artemis in Ephesus

Patmos (See Revelation 2:1-7)

John 21:18-23 and Acts 12:1-4 – God is sovereign over our time. Our lives are in His hands.

According to Irenaus, Clement of Alexandria and Eusebius: John was sent to the Isle of Patmos AFTER and effective ministry in Ephesus during the 14th year of reign of Domitian (81-96 AD). He spent 18 months in exile (he wrote Revelation from a cave). Domitian died by assassination, and he was able to return to Ephesus (under the reign of Nerva – 96-98 AD). He died when he was 102-104 yrs old.



Corinth

- Bema
- Temple of Aphrodite

Reflection: See Romans 12:10; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 and Acts 18:12. Believers will not stand at the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) – our eternal destiny is secure in heaven. Believers will stand at the “Bema” the Judgment Seat of Christ to test our works.



Crete

- Minoan Civilization (first civilization of Europe)
- Church of St. Titus

Reflection: See Acts 27:21-25. Paul told those in charge of the ship not to leave, but they didn't listen. Sometimes we suffer because of our own mistakes. Sometimes because of the mistakes of others. However, God's purposes will prevail.

Reflection: See Titus 2:11-15. God's grace transforms us. It doesn't give us a license to sin, but rather a power to stop sinning.



Rome

- The Colosseum (top left)
- Mammertine Dungeon (top right)
- The Catacombs (bottom left)
- Sistine Chapel (bottom right)

Further Reflections:

Ours is a historical faith. There is value to visiting these places and hearing God's Word applied.

See Galatians 4:4-5 – God sent Jesus at just the right time, when the Roman roads had been built, when there was a common language, when there was the Pax Romana (a time of relative peace).

