

Cambridge (MA) RPC – 126th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, August 21 – The Meaning of Ephesus – Acts 19:1-20

0.0 Introduction - On two gateway cities, albeit with somewhat different legacies

1.0 Why Choose Ephesus in the First Place?

1.1 End of Paul's 2nd journey (Ac.18:19-21) and first two years of 3rd (Ac.19:1-10, etc.)

1.2 Reasons: open-minded Jews asked for him (18:20), Apollos there (18:24-28), later

Timothy (I Tim.1:3f), urban center of Asia Minor (Rev.2-3), strong civic/cultural activity

1.3 On periphery of Paul's 'Macedonian call' (Ac.16:6-10)

2.0 What Happened in Ephesus?

2.1 Disciples of John the Baptist receive the Holy Spirit (Ac.19:1-7)

2.2 Three months of synagogue dialogue (Ac.19:8-9)

2.3 Fruitful dialogue at School of Tyrannus (Ac.19:9-10)

2.4 Miraculous healings (Ac.19:11-12)

2.5 Sons of Sceva displaced (Ac.19:13-17)

2.6 Broad conversion (Ac.19:17-19) → divestiture of books & amulets

2.7 Civic disarray (Ac.19:21-41 – cf.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XX_P3vZXWU

2.8 Legacy of this city: strong Christian presence and ecumenical council

3.0 Insights from Ephesus for Us Today

3.1 An exercise in knowledge and understanding...*and* Spirit-ual power

3.2 Relational ministry: people face-to-face, embodying Christ's love & truth