

Paul's work in Ephesus is linked to the preservation of several letters to churches - that are to become, and now are, large portions of the Christian scriptures. The new Followers of The Way are experiencing new life in Christ and the leadership of prominent Christian speakers (Apollos - see Acts 19:1) During Paul's ministry "all of Asia" was evangelized: *Paul entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God; but when some were stubborn and disbelieved, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples with him, and argued daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. (Acts 19:8)*

This caused a massive move to Christ and with it an upsetting of the eastern Roman empire economy. Acts 19 records the evangelism. An assistant of Paul's named Epaphras evangelized the Lycus valley of central (today Turkey) Asia establishing churches listed in the beginning of Revelation - Colossae - Laodicea - Philadelphia - and many other (not mentioned in scripture but known from history). Economic riots against the new Christian impact on these markets led to Paul's crises (Acts 19:23-) It may be that Paul's imprisonment occurred in Ephesus. This may be behind a paragraph in II Corinthians:

For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself.⁹ Why, we felt that we had received the sentence of death; but that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead;¹⁰ he delivered us from so deadly a peril, and he will deliver us; on him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.¹¹ You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us in answer to many prayers. (2Co 1:8-11)

This is followed by a very key verse - if we would grasp Paul's grasp of the "work and will of God":

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, the one who was proclaimed among you by us- by me and Silvanus and Timothy- was not "Yes" and "No," but it has always been "Yes" in him. For every one of God's promises are "Yes" in him; therefore, also through him the "Amen" is spoken, to the glory we give to God. But it is God who establishes us together with you in Christ and who anointed us who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a down payment.. (2Co 1:19-22)

1. The Fulfillment of All of God's Promise
2. The Obedience of Jesus Christ to God and his will
3. The center/totally of the Christian "Yes"!
4. The "amen" chorus - defining worship
5. God's commission -
6. The Holy Spirit's role in all of this

This is Evangelical theology

It pleased him to have all his fullness dwell in the Son, and through him to reconcile all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross- through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven. (Col 1:19-20)

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