

Good News From Chardon

The Riot in Ephesus

By Sandra Sweeny Silver

Conversion to Christ changes the individual. Mass conversions to Christ (Christianity) change a culture. An entire change in pagan culture is what is at stake in this passage from Acts 19:23-41

Demetrius the silversmith saw clearly this new message of a One God Who is not embodied in an idol was a threat to not only the livelihood and prosperity of his guild but, also, to the foundation of their city and their society. He had seen all the Ephesians who were raising their hands to God Almighty and were not carrying his silver idols in their hands. He is one of the only people in the New Testament who saw the “handwriting on the wall” for pagan temples, pagan priests, pagan priestesses, pagan worshippers and pagan idols—and tried to stem the tide that would eventually overtake all in the Western world.

Paul, the persuasive and powerful Apostle to the Gentiles, had spent almost three years (c. 53-56) in the prosperous and influential port town of Ephesus in modern Turkey, then called Asia.

His message was so convicting that even “a number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. (A drachma was a silver coin worth a day’s wages.) In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.” Acts 19:19,20

Many people from Ephesus and thousands of people from all over the world at that time who came to Ephesus to trade/deliver goods or on pilgrimage to visit the Temple of Artemis had been converted to Christ and had turned away from the idol worship of the Mother Goddess, the Queen of Heaven, as she was called.

Ephesus had always been the epicenter for the worship of the goddess Artemis aka Diana aka Ishtar aka Astarte, the most famous and most worshiped Mother Goddess in the ancient world for over 1,000 years. She was a fertility goddess and is sculpted with many nourishing breasts cascading down to her abdomen. Many idols, large and small, of this ancient Mother figure have been found all over the Near and Middle East over the centuries.

The Greek poet Antipater of Sidon who compiled the list of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World in c. 140 AD, described the Temple of Artemis/Diana in Ephesus in his Greek Anthology 9.58: “I have seen the wall of lofty Babylon which is a road for chariots, and the statue of Zeus by the Alpheus and the hanging gardens, and the colossus of Rhodes, and the huge labor of the high pyramids and the vast tomb of Mausolus; but when I saw the house of Artemis that mounted to the clouds, those other marvels lost their brilliancy, and I said, ‘Lo, apart from Olympus, the Sun never looked on aught so grand.’”

Ephesus was the city whose pride was her magnificent temple. A first temple in honor of the goddess goes back to the Bronze Age (c. 1100 BC). It was destroyed by a flood. A second temple was destroyed by arson. The third and final temple, the one known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, was built in c. 323 BC and lasted until 286 AD when it was destroyed by invading Goths. Christianity had by that time supplanted idol worship in much of the Roman world. There was no attempt to rebuild the temple to the once-eternal goddess. Its ruins are witness to the clash of cultures which Demetrius so desperately predicted and tried to repel.

August 29, 2021

Issue 35

Church of
Christ

128 Maple Ave.

Chardon, OH 44024

440-286-5505



Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Tom

Song Leader: Ray

Opening Hymn:

216—A Mighty Fortress

Opening Prayer: Dale

Hymn:

127—He Hideth My Soul

Scripture Reading: Jerad

Ephesians 1:15-23

Hymn:

295—In Remembrance

Lord’s Supper: Larry

Hymn:

120—The Solid Rock

Sermon: Tom

Invitation Hymn:

78—Hark the Gentle Voice

Closing Hymn:

192—Anywhere With Jesus

Closing Prayer: Ryan

PRAYER LIST

- *Bonnie and her family .
- *Margaret and Albert.
- *Wanda and her family.
- *Kathy, her sister will be moved to rehab soon.
- *Zarna’s family and friends
- *Larry and Ruth.
- *Pat and Ron and their family.
- *Juanita’s sister Betty and the rest of her family.
- *Mary and her family.
- *Robert and Sara and their children.
- *Ray and Barbara and their family.
- *Dale and his family.
- *Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
- *Myron & Carole and their family.
- *Mark and his family. .
- *Our congregation
- *Our Veterans
- *Our nation and the world



Aug. 29—Worship 11 am.

Speaker: Tom

Aug. 29—Bible Study 6pm

on-line with Dale

Sept. 1—(b.) Juanita

Sept. 2—(b.) Nina

Sept. 4—(b.) Austin

Sept. 5—Worship 11 am.

Speaker: Tom

Sept. 5—Bible Study 6pm

on-line with Dale

Sept. 5—(b.) David

Sept. 6—(b.) Zarna

Sept. 12—Worship 11 am.

Speaker: Tom

Sept. 12—Bible Study

Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom

Ephesians 1:15-23

Above	after	being	believe
Calling	cease	Christ	Enlightened
Exceeding	Father	Greatness	inheritance
Jesus	knowledge	making	mention
Mighty	power	prayers	raised
Revelation	riches	right	saints
Spirit	thanks	Therefore	toward
Which	wisdom	working	

A C E N D G H E P U E T A B O V E D
 R H A N L L N T H I S N O I T N E M
 I R N G L S R I U N A D E R H S I T
 G I S F E I E E K T E A N D I G O E
 H S G A V E G H T A C I M A N W R G
 T T N S K N A H T F M T R I A O O D
 B E O H E A D O T V A E E R F R A E
 G N I D E E C X E E F B D E S L V L
 L S T T H I N G S A N T R E O E T W
 G A A G E C N A T I R E H N I H E O
 R I L N C H U H J S H C D L R C H N
 E N E I W H E E R T I I E C H I W K
 A T V L S R S E H R I B Y T H G I M
 T S E L S U Y G N I K R O W B O S D
 N Y R A S A T H E F U L H L N E D S
 E S O C R P O W E R T I R I P S O F
 S H I P M W H O F I C L L S A L M L
 S I N A L L K B O H A C J T X Z D G

Hidden Message: _____

**“If you don’t know where you are going,
 you might wind up someplace else.”
 Yogi Berra**

SUNDAY: Worship — 11:00 am; Bible Study — 6:00 pm (on Zoom)

Website: Chardonchurchofchrist.org

E-mail: church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com

Pod Cast: Chardon.podbean.com

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Answer to Puzzle: And He put all things under
 His feet, and gave Him to be head over all
 things to the church, which is His body, the
 fullness of Him who fills all in all.