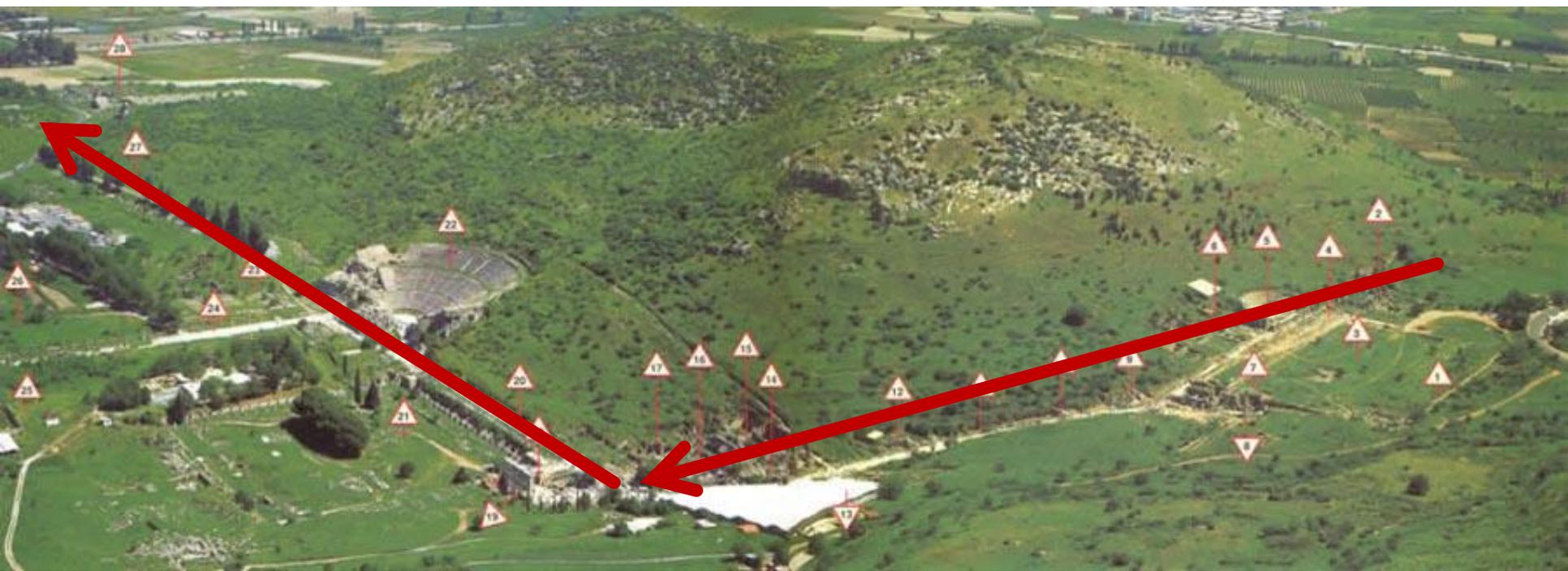


Week Seven

Ephesus





The Golden Age of Ephesus

Entrance to Ephesus from the Harbor

Entrance to Ephesus from the Magnesia Gate

- LEGENDS:** 1-Varius Baths 2-Odeon 3-State Agora 4-Temple of Isis 5-Town Hall 6-Pollio Fountain 7-Memius Monument 8-Domitian Temple 9-Domitian Square 10-Curetes Street 11-Trajan Fountain 12-Scholastica Baths 13-Latrines 14-Hadrian Temple 15-Palaces on the Slope 16-Octagonal Monument 17-Fountain 18-Hadrian Gate 19-Lowe House 20-Celsus Library 21-Mazeus & Mithridates Gate 22-Commercial Agora 23-Marble Street 24-Great Theatre 25-Harbor Gate 26-Arcadian Avenue 27-Four Columns Monument 28-Ancient Port 29-Gymnasium 30-Verulanus Sport Area 31-Harbor Baths 32-Byzantium Palace

The Ephesians: Who They Were

Socio-Economic Differences:

- The Asiarchs
- The Aristocrats
- The Aritisans
- The Slaves

Ethnic Differences:

- Jews
- Gentiles

A Brief Tour Through Ephesus:

- How did they live?
- What did they value?

Odeon: "The State House"



Domitian's Temple: Emperor Worship



Pollio's Fountain



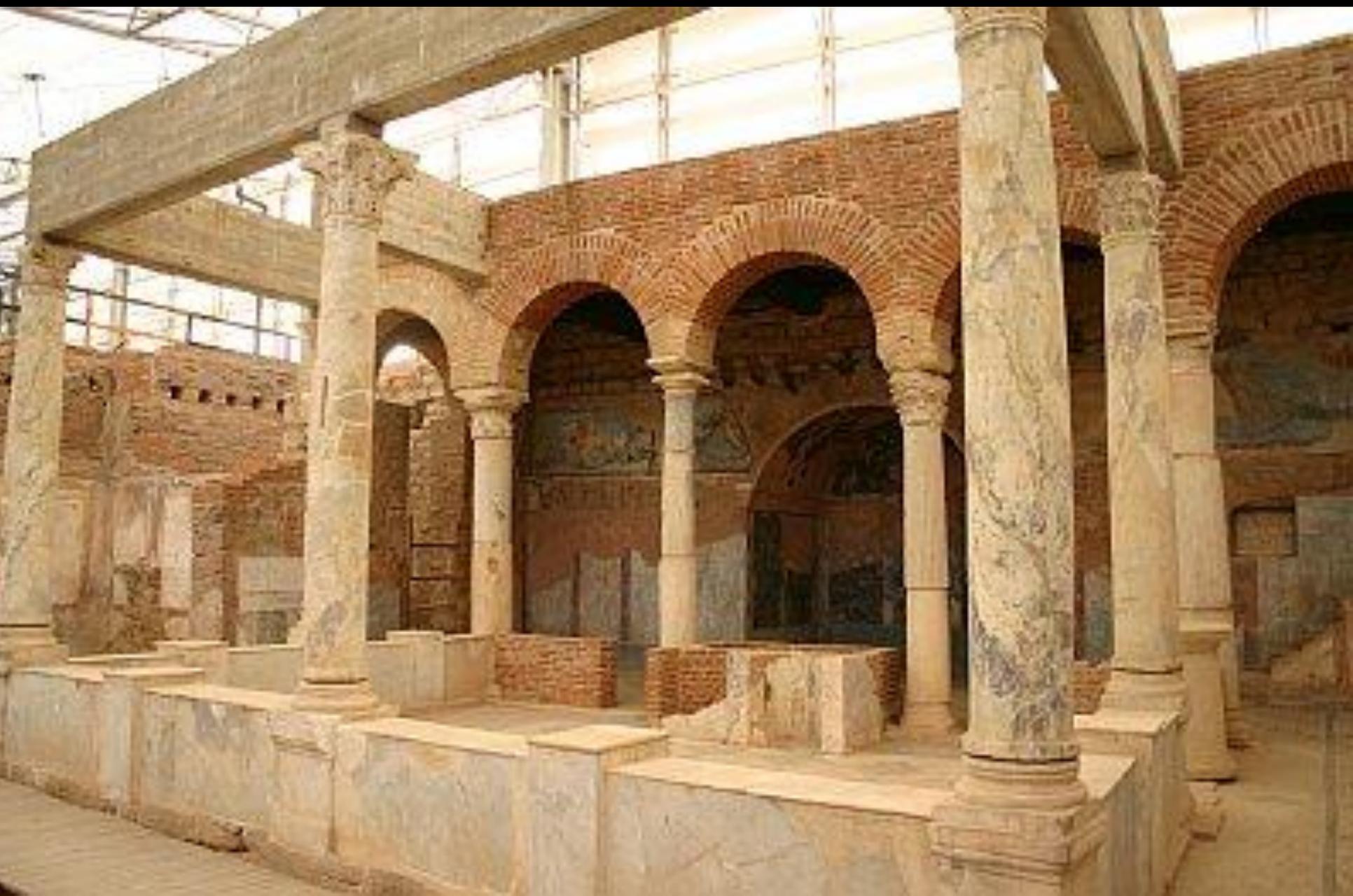
Pollio's Aqueduct



Curetes Way: Shops & Businesses



The Terrace Houses







Celsus Library: Manuscripts!



Commercial Agora: Shop 'Til You Drop!



Great Theater: What a View!



Gymnasium: Bath and Body!



Stadium: Sports & Gladiators



Artemis Temple: 7 Wonders??



Brothel: Sensuality



...Next to the Public Toilets



What do they value?

- Politics
- Engineering
- Business
- Nice Homes
- Learning & Education
- Commerce & Shopping
- Entertainment
- The Body & Fitness
- Sports
- Religion/spiritism and power
- Sensuality/Sex

The Ephesians: Who They Were

Diverse groups of people from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds who

- put themselves first,
- indulged in the sensual culture through the arts, entertainment, and sports
- valued riches and attaining wealth
- stayed in their groups
- and believed that learning and spiritual power were part of everyday living.

9 New Testament Books

Written to Ephesus:

Ephesians

I Timothy

II Timothy

Revelation

Written from Ephesus:

I Corinthians

John (Gospel)

I John

II John

III John

Paul Enters Ephesus for the First Time...

No one believes in Jesus.

Everyone in the city is steeped in this culture around them. This has been their way of life for...a very long time!

Twelve people hear about their need to repent and believe in Jesus for salvation.

What does he do now to take them from their first faith to being a mature believer?

They Needed NEW Learning!



How did they get from old to new?

Old Self

REPENT of the old self:

1. I am this.
2. It is wrong.
3. I don't want this anymore.
4. I can't change myself.

Without this



There is no this:

- Adopted!
- Chosen!
- Cleaned
- Chosen for good works
- Holy Spirit lives inside

New Self

RECEIVE the new self:

1. Jesus is the Son of God.
2. His righteous life paid for my sinful life on the cross.
3. I ask Him to take my old life and give me His life.
4. He forgives me and changes me.

The Ephesians: Who They Were

Diverse groups of people from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds who

- put themselves first

Who comes first now? Who do they love?
JESUS!

The Believers get rid of what doesn't fit their NEW life in Jesus.

1. Confess
2. Disclose practices
3. Burn magic books



\$2,040,000

Great Theater



How Could they live in Purity...

Every area of life was affected by the sensual culture of Ephesus!

in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Ephesians 4:22-24

New Self Wants a Pure Life

Adultery: wanting someone else.

“I wish I didn’t have my husband.”

“I wish I had that person.”

Covetousness: wanting someone else's things.

“I wish my husband were like that person.”

“That husband would be a better person than I am.”

Impurity: indulging in anything that defiles the mind.

- Through what I read.
- Through what I watch.
- Through what I listen to.
- Through what I imagine.

The NEW SELF wants to live a pure life!

The New Self Wants a Pure Life

The marriage vow.

“I will forsake all others and cling only to my husband.”

“I will submit to my husband.”

Contentment and Thankfulness.

“God has given me much through my husband.”

“God will teach me through my husband.”

Purity: renewing my mind.

- Through what I read.
- Through what I watch.
- Through what I listen to.
- Through what I imagine.

The Ephesians: Who They Were

Diverse groups of people from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds who

- put themselves first,
- indulged in the sensual culture through the arts, entertainments, and sports

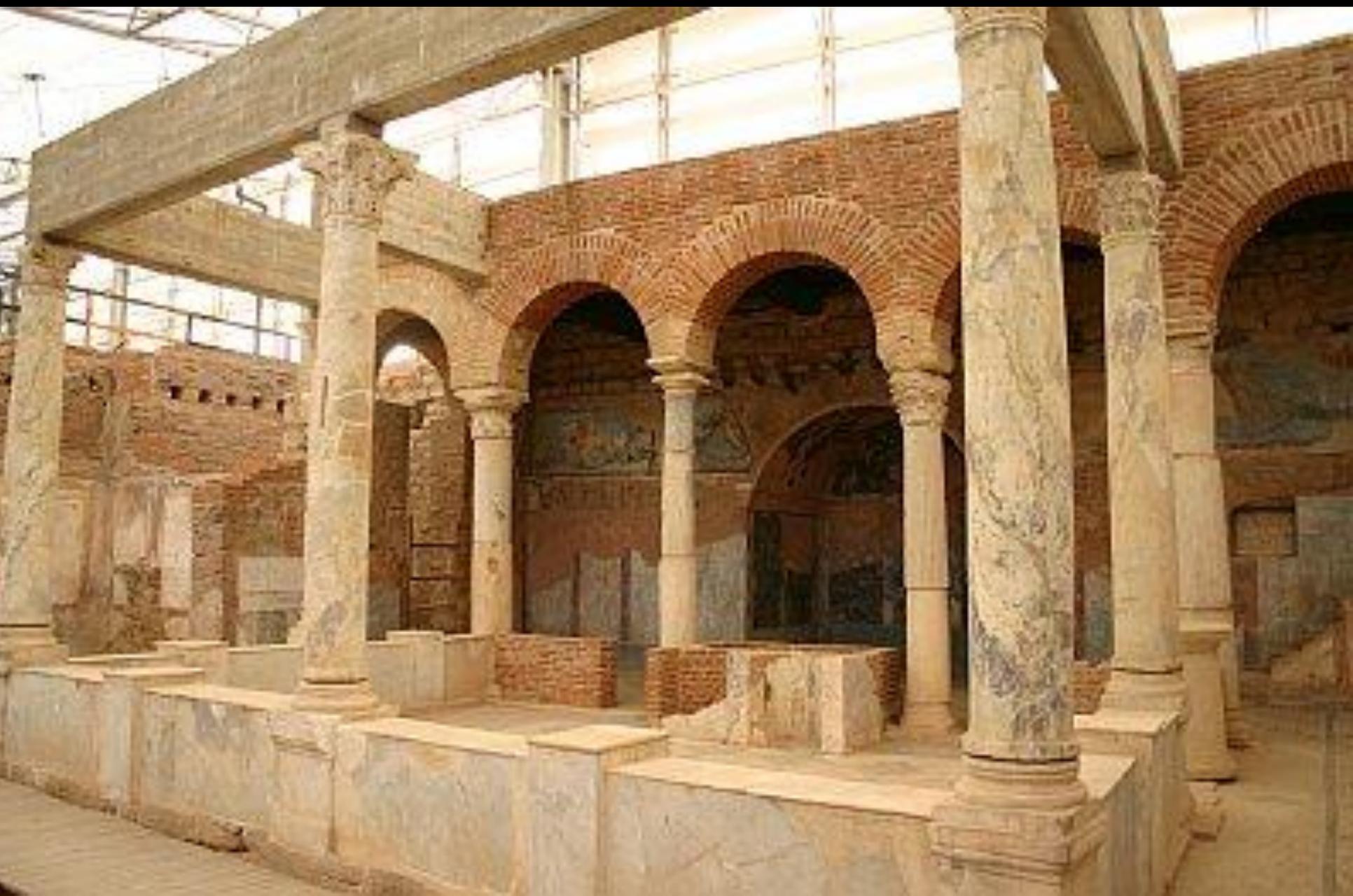
Who do they love in their thoughts?

JESUS!

Who do they love in their actions?

Their closest relationships.

The Terrace Houses



Instruct the rich: I Tim. 6:17-19

What was the temptation and snare?

- 1. To think that wealth was an indication of their true success and importance.**
- 2. To think that security was having the right amount of money saved up.**
- 3. To use their resources for themselves instead of generously giving them for others.**
- 4. To put their resources into things that had no eternal value.**

Investing

Paul wasn't talking about an amount of money. The issue was

Who love
~~How do I live?~~

Who
~~What~~ do I value?

The Ephesians: Who They Were

Diverse groups of people from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds who

- put themselves first,
- indulged in the sensual culture through the arts, entertainments, and sports
- valued riches and attaining wealth

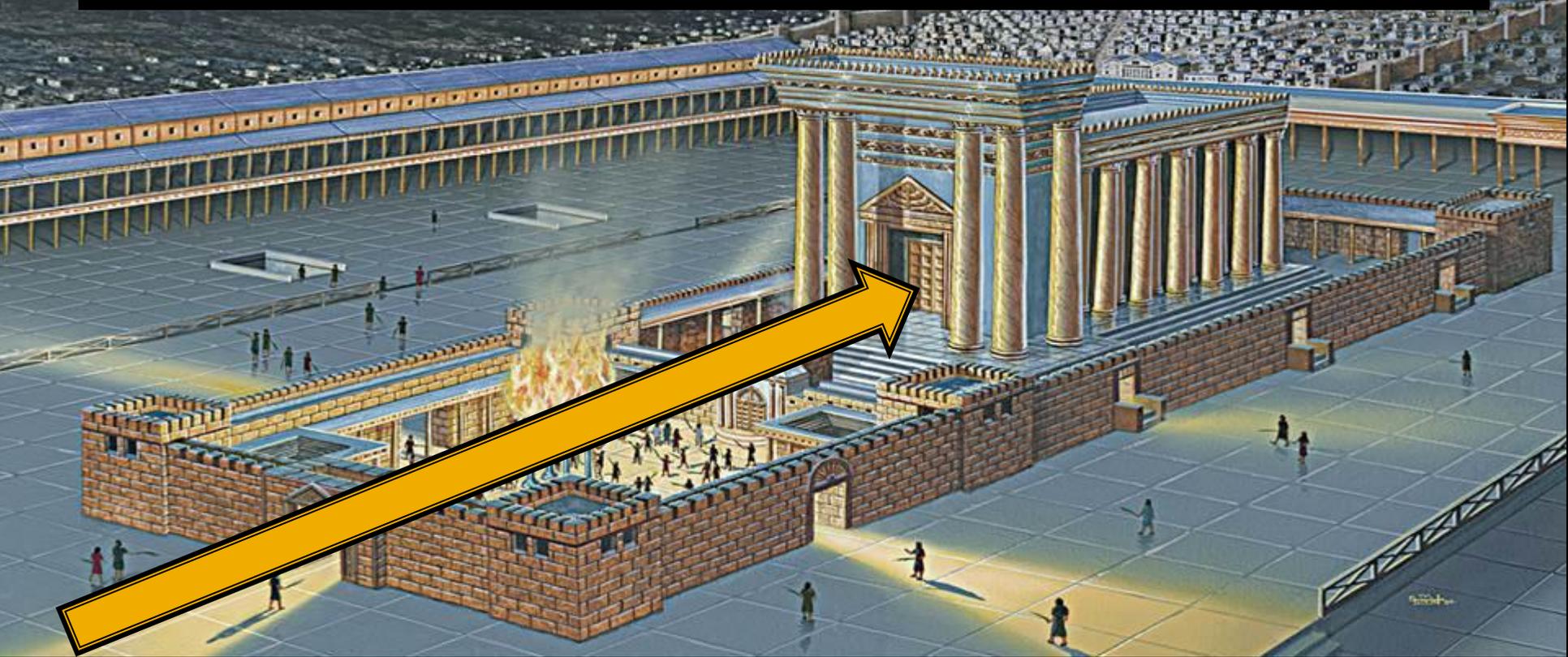
Who do they love with their money?

JESUS!

Who do they **invest in** with their actions?

The next generation of believers.

The Basis of the Ephesians Unity



- Jesus has fulfilled the righteous requirements of God's Law.
- Jesus has taken away the hostility that God has toward the sinner and their sin.

God Gave GIFTS! Ephesians 4:8-16

It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers—

To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be **BUILT UP** until we all reach UNITY in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become MATURE** attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ...

We will in all things **GROW UP** into Him who is the head that is, Christ.

**Two Images:
Building
Body**

The Ephesians: Who They Were

Diverse groups of people from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds who

- put themselves first,
- indulged in the sensual culture through the arts, entertainments, and sports
- valued riches and attaining wealth
- stayed in their groups

Who do they love by building each other up with their spiritual gifts?

JESUS and each other!

The Goal of spiritual maturity:

The goal of this command is LOVE, which comes from a pure heart, and a good conscience, and a sincere faith.

1 Timothy 1:5

Beloved let us LOVE one another, for love is from God and everyone who LOVES is born of God and knows God. The one who does not LOVE does not know God, for God is LOVE.

1 John 4:7-8

The Ephesians Matured

Diverse group of people from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds who

- **put Jesus first and got rid of old practices**
- **wanted to live pure in their relationships**
- **used their money to invest in eternal things**
- **worked together and built each other up**
- **learned sound doctrine and how to live by the power of God's Spirit.**

Be on Guard

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock... I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be on the alert...

Acts 20:28-31

And Paul was fearful for them:

Acts 20:29

I Timothy 1:3-6

I Timothy 4:1

I Timothy 4:6

I Timothy 6:3-4

I Timothy 6:20

II Timothy 1:13

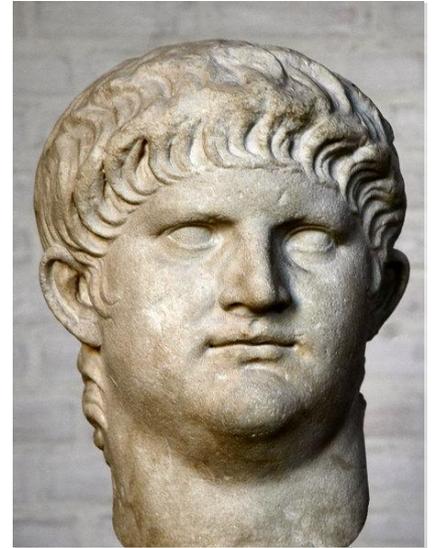
II Timothy 2:14, 16

II Timothy 2:23

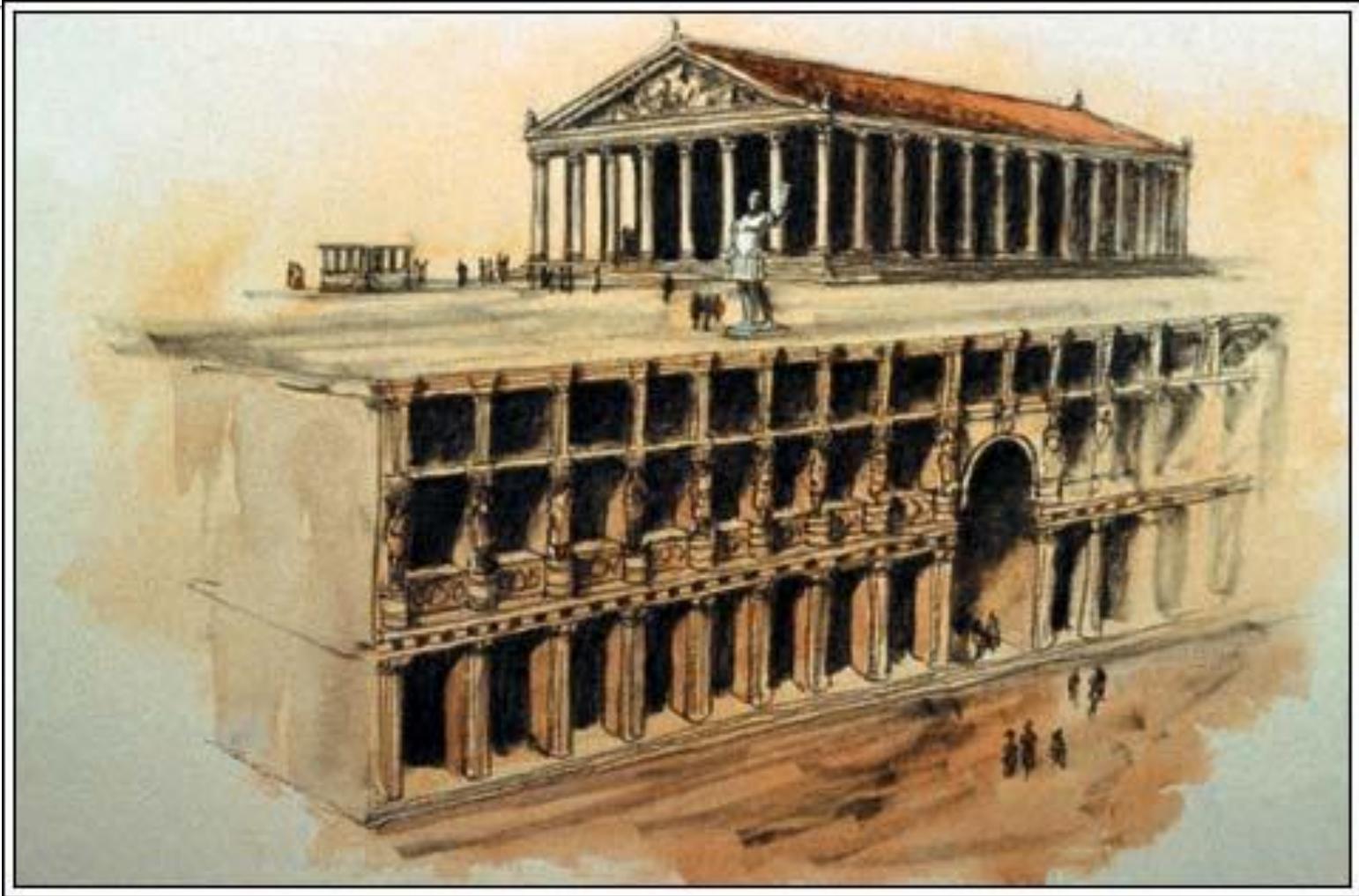
II Timothy 4:3

Then the hard times came...

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,
but against the rulers, against the powers,
against the world forces of this darkness, against
the spiritual forces of wickedness in the
heavenly places.



Domitian's Temple: Emperor Worship



<http://www.followtherabbi.com/ttwmk2/images/ttw-templeofdomitian.jpg>

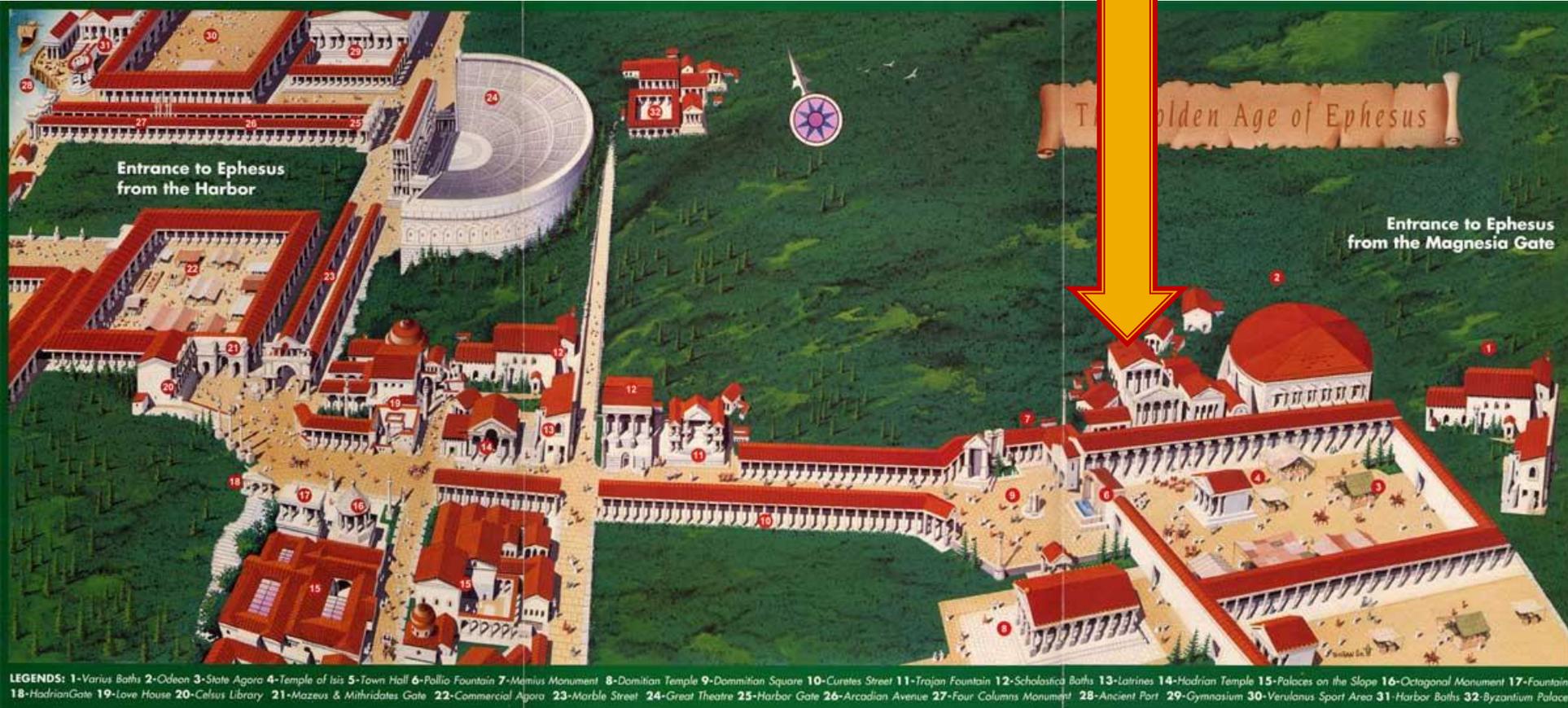
The Final Message

*Dear Angel of the church in Ephesus,
I know your deeds, your hard work and your
perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate
wicked men, that you have tested those who
claim to be apostles but are not, and have
found them false. You have persevered and
have endured hardships for my name, and have
not grown weary...You hate the practices of the
Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

The problem and how to fix it:

*But I have this against you,
You have forsaken your **first love**.
Remember the height from which you
have fallen! Repent and do the things
you did at first. If you do not repent, I will
come to you and remove your lampstand
from its place.*

Prytaneion of the Eternal Flame



Prytaneion of the Eternal Flame



First Love?

How can you tell if a couple is newly dating or are newly weds?

What is the difference between a newly married couple and a couple that's been married over 20 years?

You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling

You never close your eyes
Anymore when I kiss your lips.
And there's no tenderness
Like before in your fingertips.
You're trying hard not to show it,
But baby, baby I know it...

You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling

You've lost that lovin' feelin',
Whoa, that lovin' feelin',
You've lost that lovin' feelin',
Now it's
gone...gone...gone...wooooooh.

You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling

Now there's no welcome look
In your eyes when I reach for you.
And now you're starting to
Criticize little things I do.
It makes me just feel like crying,
'Cause baby, something beautiful's
dyin'.

You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling

Baby, baby, I'd get down on my knees
for you.

If you would only love me like you used
to do, yeah.

We had a love...a love...a love you don't
find everyday.

So don't...don't...don't...don't let it slip
away.

You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling

Baby (baby), baby (baby),
I beg of you please (please), please
(please)
I need your love (I need your love), I
need your love (I need your love),
So bring it on back (So bring it on
back),
Bring it on back (so bring it on back).

You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling

Bring back that lovin' feelin',
Whoa, that lovin' feelin'
Bring back that lovin' feelin',
'Cause it's gone...gone...gone,
and I can't go on,
woh-oh-oh-oh

How's Your Love Life?

How's Your Jesus-love Life?

No Jesus-Love Life

Symptoms:

- Can talk to friends for hours to get advice but don't talk to Jesus.
- Can talk about church and even God but don't talk about Jesus.
- Always fighting within self to do what is right—"I always feel that I ought to but never really want to."

Diagnosis:

- Likely have not had new life birthed by the Spirit of God
- Have little or no understanding of repentance
- Have little or no understanding of purpose of new life
- Still loving self

How's Your Jesus-love Life?

•*No Jesus-love Life*

First *Jesus-Love* Life

Symptoms:

Can talk to Jesus about everything.

Can talk about Jesus and what He's done for you.

Immediate aversion to certain old ways. Internal conviction about other old ways—"I want to do what is right and am grieved by my selfishness."

Diagnosis:

Possibly have recently experienced new life birthed by the Spirit of God or had a life-altering understanding.

Have repented of old ways or a particular sin.

Grasp purpose of new life.

How's Your Jesus-love Life?

•*No Jesus-love Life*

•*First Jesus-love Life*

•*Lost First Jesus-love Life*

Lost First *Jesus-Love* Life

Symptoms:

Go through motions of talking to Jesus without the heart.

Think to a different time in life when you were “on fire”.

Most of your stories about what Jesus has done are from long ago and not from current life examples.

Cling to being right as a replacement for being loving; especially critical of those in authority.

No longer actively get rid of practices that don't belong.

Justify areas of impurity and temporal values.

Diagnosis:

Lost first love.

The problem and how to fix it:

*But I have this against you,
You have forsaken your **first love**.
Remember the height from which you
have fallen! Repent and do the things
you did at first. If you do not repent, I will
come to you and remove your lampstand
from its place.*

Jesus says to the Ephesians and Us

“Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with
God’s people. Amen.

Revelation 22:20-21