

Ephesus was a very prominent city in the ancient world, a prize possession according to the Roman historian Strabo; one of the best and most glorious of cities and greatest emporium of the proper Asia. It is called by Pliny, another Roman historian, one of the eyes of Asia, Smyrna being the other. However now it is in ruins, its glory and prominence gone, only a thing of written record. The phrase "How have the mighty fallen?! seems to aptly fit. It was also a place of religious significance. The record in the ACTS of the apostles is: *Great is Diana* (Greek name Artemis) *of the Ephesians*, a boast they chanted for two hours long to drown out the preaching of the truth (Acts 18 To 20). Yet despite this manifestation of pagan worship some were converted and flourished therein.

Revelation letters to the seven ecclesias give the reader five specific things to bear in mind they are:

Title

Approval: I know thy works,

Disapproval nevertheless.... ,

Warning Remember,

Encouraging promise to him that overcometh

Such observations are the process which is done when the divine eye surveys the works of creation and human beings then the groups of called out ones, Ecclesias, in particular.

In this reference it is the words of Jesus shown by the identity given in the first chapter of Revelation. Further the behaviour of the world generally is judged at Jesus and God's hands, a situation which the majority of mankind baulks at and seeks to deny as depicted in the words of Psalm 2.

However, the letters to the seven ecclesias, although given to and about them, illustrate how mankind generally can go astray. Its formula then should be collectively considered and specifically focused upon as the spirit saith unto the ecclesias.

THE EPHESIANS had started well; they watched at the beginning for the dangers that might arise yet had fallen away. The process set out in Ephesians 4 was not kept up. This is an exhortation to we who follow after them yet are subject to like tendencies as such the warning:

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy lightstand out of its place except thou repent.

Because of its current state the question could be asked: Did they repent? and a sad deduction might be 'no'.

We in our turn need to constantly guard against complacency and ensure our repentance is true, that we keep to the first or foundation works and allow Ephesians 4 to be our model of life.

Brother Michael Noonan