

**Study Aids**  
Discussion Questions and Suggested Reading  
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 120

Questions:

What has been the image in your mind regarding the missionary journeys of Paul? Have you previously thought in terms of driving to some small town in Texas (or any other state in the U.S.)? Did you have any appreciation of the possibility he might face danger?

Remember in chapter 13 Paul was driven out of Antioch in Pisidia by a mob, then stoned and left for dead in Lystra (chapter 14), then beaten by another mob in Philippi and put in jail (chapter 15). Luke only gives us hints of other dangers Paul faced when Paul says “I fought with beasts at Ephesus” (1 Cor. 16:9) and that Aquila and Priscilla “risked their necks” for his life (Rom. 16:4). Would you willingly face threats to your body for preaching the message of Jesus?

What had you thought of the city of Ephesus prior to this lesson? Could you imagine a magnificent city, with marble streets, beautiful statuary, central heating plus running water in homes, and a central sewage system?

Could you picture people living in fine homes, raising families, and desiring a future for their children, just as you do? Can you see them praying to idols for help? Can you see them as needing your help?

Have you ever thought about the fabled temple of Artemis (which the Romans equated to their goddess Diana) which attracted tens of thousands of people to it each year? Does it seem illogical that so many people would put their trust in a marble statue? Or in “possessions” today?

Suggested reading for further study:

Once again, Dr. Maier adds pertinent insights of Ephesus in his book, **In the Fullness of Time**, chapter 34.

