**Ephesians**

*Ephesus, a revival church that affected a region*

**Session 1: The City, the Church and the Book**

Ephesus was a strategic city for Rome and for darkness, but more importantly it became a strategic city for the Kingdom of God. It was a place of great influence.

**Ephesus was strategic for Rome**

A proconsul’s seat and military outpost.

* Some scholars claim it was a city of some 250,000 people. More modern assessments set that number much lower, at approximately 50,000. But this places it among the largest cities of its day.

**Ephesus was strategic for darkness**

A world renown cultic headquarters

* Artemus or Diana – virgin hunter, protector of child birth
* A worldwide bank – money and sin always conspire together
* An entire economy surrounded her worship (Acts 19).

Not only was there cultic worship of Diana but occultic practice

* Acts 19 – 50,000 days wages worth of pagan books were burned.
* Is it any wonder that Paul deals with spiritual warfare when writing the believers of this city?

**Ephesus became strategic for the Kingdom of God**

It was arguably the most thoroughly evangelized city.

* Acts 19:10 speaks of the entire region hearing the word of God.
* It was a *city* in revival.
* Tremendous upheaval – literally a riot occurred

**The Book of Ephesians is strategic for us today**

It was the only church Paul didn’t bring correction to.

* I believe Ephesians to be the highest theological overview and the deepest teaching of the New Testament.
* It is the primary text of spiritual warfare. It gives us more insight into the spiritual realm than the vast majority of books.
* It contains prophecy – the revelation of the One New Man and the church in its fullness.
* It is the source of much of our understanding on five-fold ministry.
  + Spiritual warfare demands authority gifts.

What was it about Ephesus that saw such a powerful move of God?

* Repentance through the preaching of Apollos
* Baptism in the Spirit through Paul
* Tremendous signs and wonders resulting in notoriety and the fear of the Lord
* Paul settled in longer than usual. They were thoroughly taught. This is reflected in the depth of the teaching Paul wrote to them.