

Smoky Mountain Bible Institute

Archeology 110 Early Church

Straight Street: Today in Damascus, you can still walk down the street called Straight mentioned in Acts, Chapter 9, in which Paul was converted and made an apostle of Christ by Christ Himself.

Politarchs: The believers in Acts 17:6 were dragged before these city authorities. This term was found only in Scripture until recently and of course, used as a reason to discredit God's word. The term has since been found inscribed on stone 32 times, and 19 of them were found in Thessalonica where the events occurred that took place in the first part of Acts 17.

Areopagus: In the last part of Acts 17, Paul addressed the "Areopagus." This hill still exists today in Athens and is known to be a place where a council of the city met. Areopagus means the hill of Ares or Mars and that was also the name of the council that met there. It is amazing to consider that the word of God is so clear and accurate that you can still today stand in a place that is known to be the very location that this great witnessing event took place. In fact, there are even altars in Greece and Rome inscribed with a dedication to the unknown god.

Gallio and the Bema: In Acts 18, Paul is brought before Gallio who was the proconsul of Achaia. This would have taken place at a recently discovered Bema (platform for public addresses) in Corinth. Inscriptions have also been found that identify Gallio as the proconsul of Achaia.

Ephesus: The ruins of this ancient city, once the home of the temple of Artemis (one of the 7 ancient wonders of the world), is also the location for a number of events in scripture. Specifically, Acts 19 mentions the amphitheater where Paul's traveling companions were dragged because Paul's preaching was hurting the sale of silver statues of Artemis.

Erastus: He is mentioned by Paul in his final greetings at the end of the book of Romans. He is mentioned as "Erastus, the city treasurer" and it just so happens that in 1929, a paving stone was located near the amphitheater in Corinth that names Erastus as a public official.

"All roads lead to Rome": In my wife's home town of Fussen, Germany is evidence of this interesting little phrase. The 700+ year old town has a historic marker on one of its many beautiful walking trails that displays evidence of a Roman road that once passed on that location. By the time Christ came to redeem the world, Rome had built over 53000 miles of roads around their empire which promoted trade and communication throughout the entire Mediterranean and up into the British Isles. God's timing was perfect for Christ to come in a time when His great Gospel could travel 53000 miles of newly constructed roads to carry His light into a dark and dying world.

In Christ
Pastor Portier