

To the Church in Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7

This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 19:10 ESV



Also many of those who
were now believers
came, confessing and
divulging their practices.

Acts 19:18



And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Acts 19:19



For a man named
Demetrius, a silversmith,
who made silver shrines of
Artemis, brought no little
business to the craftsmen.

Acts 19:24



These he gathered together,
with the workmen in similar
trades, and said, "Men, you
know that from this business
we have our wealth.

Acts 19:26



And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods.

Acts 19:26



Temple of Artemis at Ephesus

- ◆ 1 of 7 Wonders of the Ancient World
- ◆ Built entirely of marble
- ◆ Huge 350' x 180'
- ◆ Larger than the Parthenon



Artemis of the Ephesians

In the Vatican Museum



Artemis of the Ephesians

- ◆ Goddess of fertility and motherhood
- ◆ Ancient deity made more “Greek”
- ◆ Ephes = bee in pre-Greek language



All that remains is
the foundation and
one column

Different than how the Greeks
represented Artemis as graceful,
virgin goddess of the hunt



“So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.”

– Acts 19:20 KJV

“and to know the love of Christ that surpasses
knowledge, that you may be filled with all the
fullness of God.”

– Ephesians 3:18

“I know that after my departure fierce wolves will
come in among you, not sparing the flock;
and from among your own selves will arise men
speaking twisted things, to draw away the
disciples after them.”

– Acts 20:29, 30 ESV

You are aware that all who
are in Asia turned away
from me, among whom are
Phygelus and Hermogenes.

Acts 19:10 ESV



“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:
These are the words of him who holds the seven
stars in his right hand and walks among the seven
golden lampstands.”

– Revelation 2:1 NIV

“I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.”

– Revelation 2:2 NIV

“You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.”

– Revelation 2:3 NIV

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

– Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV

“Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken
the love you had at first.”

– Revelation 2:4 NIV

“Consider how far 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.”

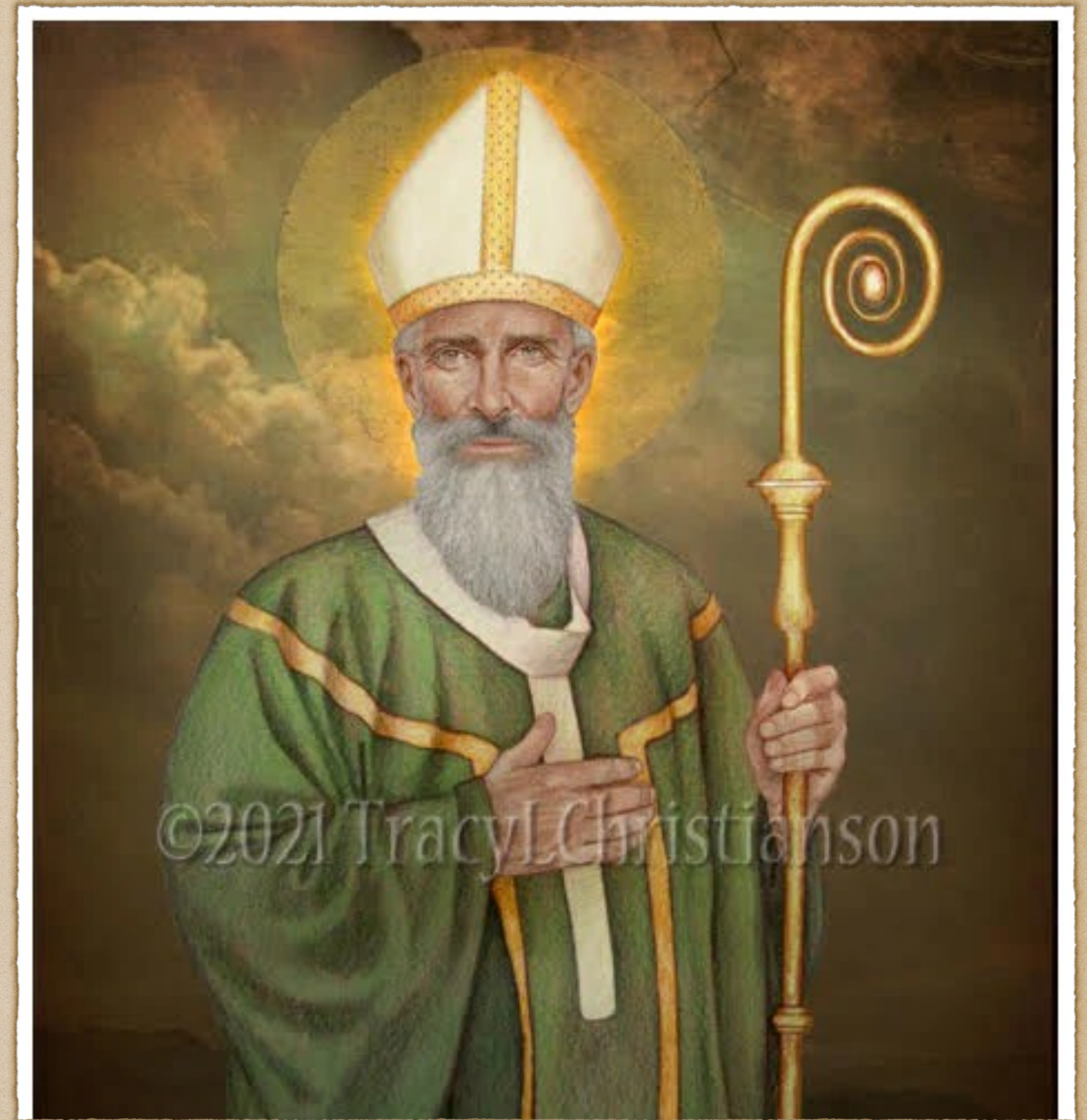
– Revelation 2:5 NIV

“But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

– Revelation 2:6 NIV

“The Nicolaitanes are the followers of that Nicolas who was one of the seven first ordained to the diaconate by the apostles. They lead lives of unrestrained indulgence. The character of these men is very plainly pointed out in the Apocalypse of John, [when they are represented] as teaching that it is a matter of indifference to practise adultery, and to eat things sacrificed to idols.”

Iranaeus in *Against Heresies* written around 180 AD also connects them with gnosticism



“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

– Revelation 2:7 NIV