

Structure of the Seven Letters

	Ephesus, 2:1-7	Smyrna, 2:8-11	Pergamos, 2:12-17	Thyatira, 2:18-29	Sardis, 3:1-6	Philadelphia, 3:7-13	Laodicea, 3:14-22
Command to write	1a	8a	12a	18a	1a	7a	14a
Title from ch. 1	1b	8b	12b	18b	1b	7b	14b
Message	2-6	9-10	13-16	19-25	1c-4	8-11	15-20
I know thy works	2a	9a	13a	19a	1c	8a	15a
Praise	2-3	9-10	13	19		8-11	
Exhortation		10				11b	
Criticism	4-5		14-16	20-23	2-3		15-20
Exhortation	5		16		3		18-19
Praise	6			24-25	4		
Exhortation				25			
Promise to Overcomers				26-28	5	12	21
Exhortation to hear	7a	11a	17a	29	6	13	22
Promise to Overcomers	7b	11b	17b				

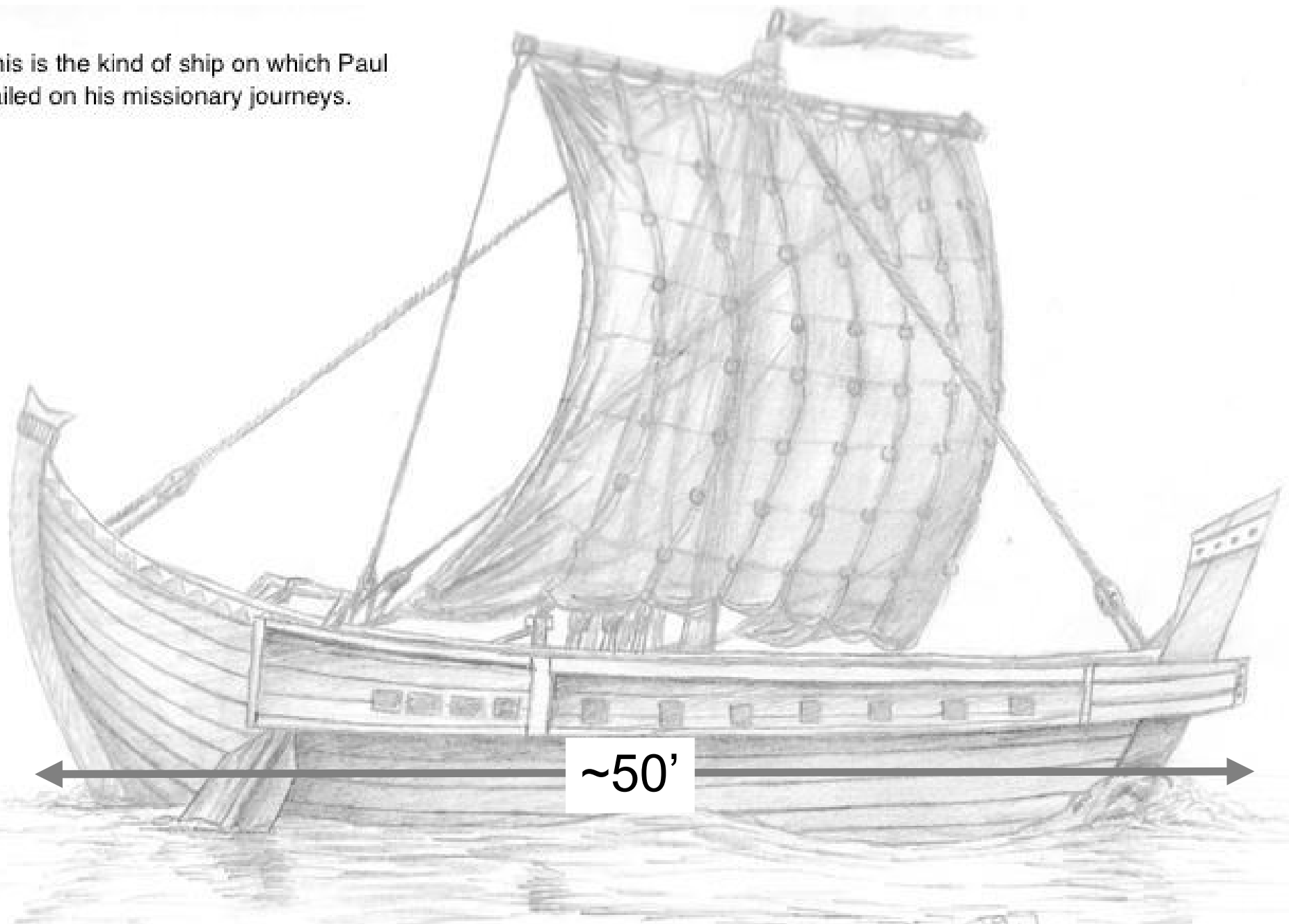
Important Facts about Ephesus

Background (Acts, other texts)	Fact
18:1-3, 18-22; 1 Cor 16:8, 19; Rom 16:3; 2 Tim 4:19	Ephesus has many transient visitors (like Aquilla and Priscilla).
18:24-26; 19:1-7	The church was exposed to believers with a diversity of beliefs .
19:8-10, 20, 23-28, 35-37	The city is fanatically devoted to the goddess Diana and hosted her temple , with its sacred park and tree.
20:1-3, 15-16	The city is losing its leading position through the silting of its harbor.
20:17, 29-35	The church has functioning elders .
Ephesians (vs. 1 Cor.)	The church is theologically mature .
20:29-30; 1 Tim 1:3; 6:3	The church was continually threatened by false teachers

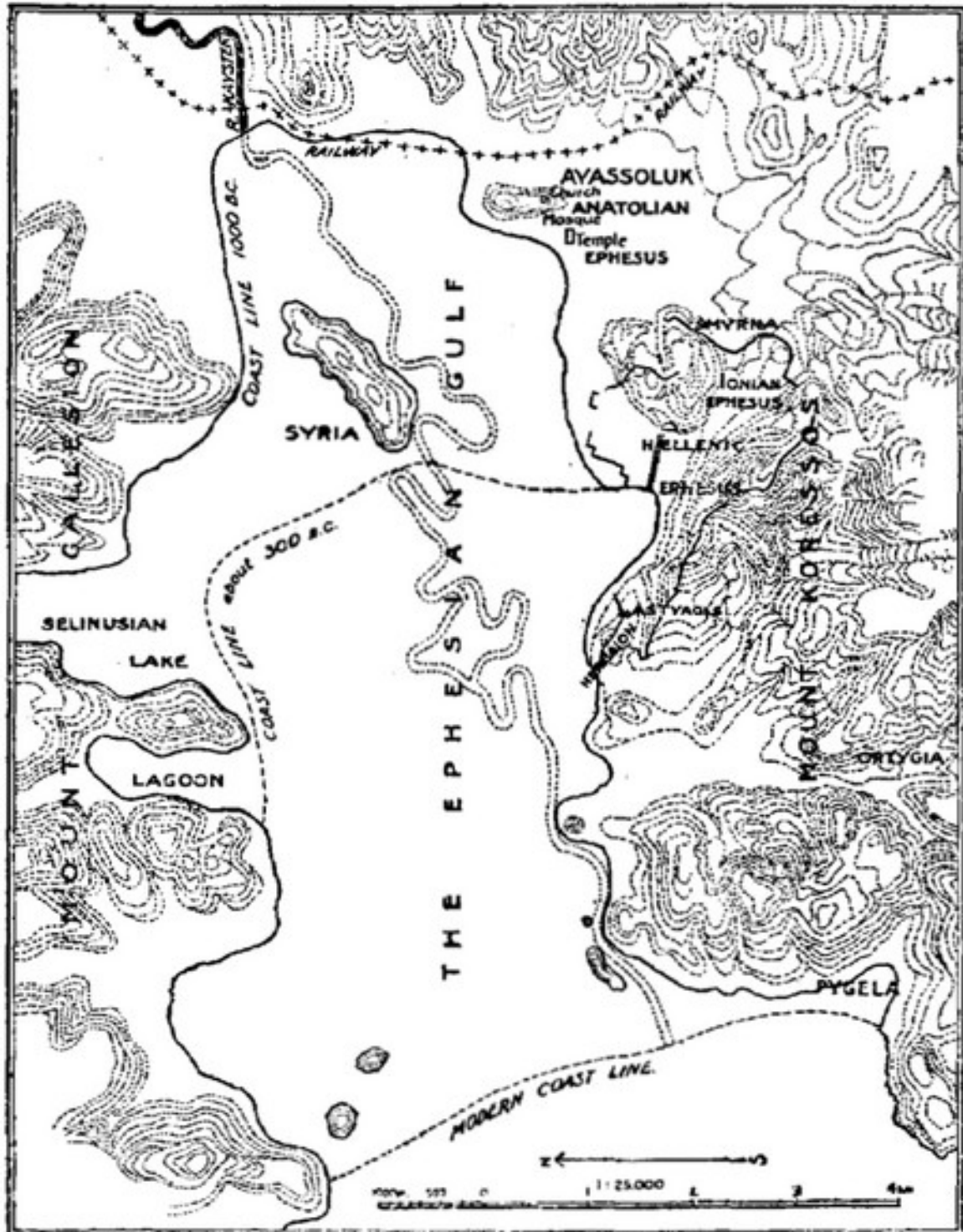
Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey, Acts 18:23-21:15



This is the kind of ship on which Paul sailed on his missionary journeys.



<https://www.futurelearn.com/info/courses/shipwrecks/0/steps/7964>



Helpful Verses in the Background of Ephesus

Timothy's ministry in Ephesus

1Ti 1:3 As I besought thee to abide still at **Ephesus**, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they **teach no other doctrine**, 4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

1Ti 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and **consent not to wholesome words**, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; 4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, 5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, **supposing that gain is godliness**: from such withdraw thyself.

2:1 "thy works"

Rom 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

1Co 10:17 For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

1Co 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

Deu 6:4 Hear [singular], O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Chiastic, Paradoxical Praise for Ephesus

2a	↓ ↑	3 TR/KJV	3 MT
labour		not fainted	not
patience		laboured	laboured
cannot bear evil		patience borne	hast patience and hast borne
2b tried false apostles			

Labour ... hast not laboured

2Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. 8 We are **troubled** on every side, **yet not distressed**; we are **perplexed**, but **not in despair**; 9 **Persecuted**, but **not forsaken**; **cast down**, but **not destroyed**; 10 Always bearing about in the body the **dying** of the Lord Jesus, that the **life** also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

Cannot bear evil—hast borne

1Co 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. 11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, **if any man that is called a brother** be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. 12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? 13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

More Helpful References

4 thy first love

Jer 2:2 Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of **thy youth**, the **love** of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown. ... 5 Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are , and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?

Heb 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and **labour of love**, which ye have shewed **toward his name**, in that ye have ministered **to the saints**, and do minister.

5 remember, repent, do ...

Rev. 3:3 (Sardis)

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and **hold fast**, and **repent** ...

Heb. 10:32 But **call to remembrance** the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;