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Revelation  
Glen Shellrude

### Greek Bible Week 3

A gathering known as voluntary associations, was an assembly of individuals who

Gathered together freely for a particular cause, it was a club. But they were not like

The modern types, they were very diverse in what they represented. They could be

Categorized in three fashions: Funerary, religious, and also professional. The

Funerary association was more concerned about the proper form of burial

And the continued ceremony of their members. The religious sect was prompt

And organized, in the way they worshipped a certain being. The professional Associations consisted of members who were on the same page and these were:

Bakers, tanners, mariners, teachers, people of noble character who had great

ambitions. A majority of these associations worshipped a deity highly esteemed.

All the other associations provided for their burial ceremonies. Many appeals of

voluntary associations were made, social and religious. The voluntary associations

gathered outside, in the public places, like temples or private homes and they would

often share a meal, drink and enjoy each other's company. In Philo however, voluntary associations are almost all alike in many ways. They party excessively,

they gather together and get drunk with wine, and are involve in wild and loud

parties, and they were known to quickly get out of control, but there was still

an expectation of order and proper behavior when they met. Some associations

made rules and regulations that people should follow to become a member and they

made these things clear when they met together. The rules were quite strict. The

following included some of the rules: any member that wishes to make a complaint

or bring up any kind of business, he has to bring it up at a business meeting, so that

they may celebrate in peace and joy on their festive days. Also, any member who

moves from one location to another and causes confusion shall be fined, and any

member who speaks falsely or abusively of another shall be fined. The

voluntary associations also chose ranks of officers, under the control of the

government. A social historian spoke about the positive outcome in assigning these officers, which is an important need and asset to these societies, seeing that

they got denied by the larger societies. The voluntary association included list

of members from the lower orders which were slaves, freedmen, shopkeepers.

Being a part of the voluntary association gave many a sense of belonging, they

would feel like they were a part of a family, this also included reputation, status

and social standing. A city is known to have big percentage of people living in it.

Cities in the ancient world carried a large amount of people but in much smaller

space than their modern neighbors. Rome was known to be a very large city

in the first century with a population of almost 1,000,000 people, and in second

Place was Alexandria and Antioch which had about half of that, and following that

Was Ephesus which carried about 250,000 people. There were less cities who Also had a large capacity, and it includes: Corinth, Thessalonica, and God's beloved

Jerusalem which had about 100,000 people. Rome in its first century had a density

Of about 300 people per acre. The high population and high poverty levels led

To all kinds of chaos and violence. Both Rome and its provinces are categorized

In a hierarchy that is divided by economic lines. These economic lines were drawn

And more strictly observed than in the modern western economic societies. The

Roman society also turning here and there between aristocracy and plebe, or male

Versus female. The roman society was very conscious of their status and everything

Was observed. In the Greco-Roman empire the basic difference was between the

Slave and the free. Those who did not have a citizenship or didn't have a respectable

Background were completely discredited and looked upon with shame for the rest of

Their lives. The Romans took rank to another level, even in regards to proper seating.

Equestrians and senators were granted premier seating in the Theaters while the

others look at the show with unclean clothing near the women's benches.