SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION, PATMOS & ISTANBUL

May 17-27, 2015

Tour Hosts: Dr. Ed Hindson
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Organized by Tutku Tours
Educational, Biblical and Classical Tours

“Tutku Tours is a world leader in Biblical and Classical Tours.”
Tour Itinerary:

May 17 Sun    Depart from Washington, DC by Turkish Airlines TK 8 departing at 23:25 – Non-stop flight to Istanbul

May 18 Mon    Arrive Istanbul at 16:40
Your tour guide will meet you after the customs and baggage claim with a “LIBERTY UNIVERSITY” sign. Meet and transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (D)

May 19 Tue    Istanbul
You’ll visit the Hippodrome Square where chariot races took place in Roman era. Then, visit the famous Blue Mosque, with its six minarets and sparkling interior. You’ll visit the Hagia Sophia Church that, for 1000 years, was the largest church in Christendom. Built by Justinian (532-537 AD), the church has 107 columns, fossil imbedded white marble floors and beautiful glass mosaics. Today, it is the Museum of Byzantine Art. Catch a whiff of cinnamon, cloves, thyme and other exotic spices as you explore the Grand Bazaar. Over 4000 shops sell everything from herbs to gold. Overnight in Istanbul. (B,D)

May 20 Wed    Istanbul – Canakkale
Drive to Gallipoli. Cross the Dardanelles strait by car ferry. Drive to Alexandria Troas, founded by Alexander the Great, Paul visited here at least twice. Then visit the legendary Troy and see the replica of the wooden horse. Overnight in Canakkale. (B,D)

May 21 Thu    Assos – Pergamum – Izmir (Smyrna)
Visit Assos and drive to Pergamum and the church was praised for its forbearance during hard times (Rev. 2:12-17). Rome executed the first Christians here. Towering 1000 feet above the town and commanding a spectacular panorama is the fabled Acropolis. Then drive to Izmir, ancient Smyrna. Overnight in Izmir. (B,D)

May 22 Fri    Sardis – Hierapolis – Pamukkale
Morning visit to Sardis, another of the Seven Churches of Revelation, was berated by John the Prophet for its facade of strength when, in reality, it was weak (Rev. 3:1-6). In Sardis, coins were minted and the dyeing of wool originated. The massive scale of the Temple of Artemis and by the white marble Royal Road, the gymnasium and the synagogue will impress you. Afternoon visit to Hierapolis, blessed by hot mineral springs and some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in Asia Minor. Christianity came to Hierapolis via Paul (Colossians 4:13). The ruins cover more than a mile. You’ll see the impressive amphitheatre with seats still in perfect condition. You’ll see the City Gates, column-lined streets and arches that have stood through time and earthquake. Today, the area is known as Pamukkale, meaning “Cotton Castle”. It is named for the limestone-laden hot springs that cascade from one white-edged terrace pool to the next. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale. (B,D)

May 23 Sat    Laodicea – Aphrodisias – Kusadasi
Visit Aphrodisias excavated by the New York University and see the Stadium, The Theater, The Agora and more. Proceed to Laodicea. The Christians of Laodicea, one of the Seven Churches (Rev 3:14-22), were chastised for being lukewarm, “You are neither cold nor hot” (Rev. 3:14) and for being too comfortable incorporating pagan and Christian beliefs. In the famous scripture from Revelation (3:20-21), Jesus says to the Laodicean church: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock...” Today, there are many acres of ruins to see, including the stadium and columned streets. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale. (B,D)
May 24 Sun  Miletus and Priene – Kusadasi
Visit the Smyrna Agora in the morning. Then, drive to Miletus, where Paul bid farewell to the elders of the church at Ephesus at the end of his Third Missionary Journey (Acts 20). Priene had a substantial Christian community during the Byzantine period and was the seat of a bishop. Four of Priene’s bishops are known: Theosebius, present at the Council of Ephesus (431); Isidore, who was living in 451; Paul, present at the Council of Constantinople (692); and Demetrius (12th century). Overnight in Kusadasi. (B,D)

May 25 Mon  Ephesus – Join Ephesus Meeting – Kusadasi
Ephesus is one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1:11). In ancient days, Ephesus was a bustling port town of 250,000, graced with wide, colonnade-bordered streets. Today you will be impressed with the spectacular excavations of the major streets of ancient Ephesus. You’ll view the Library and the huge Agora. The Temple of Artemis was declared one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Today, only a single column remains to mark the site. You’ll visit the Basilica of St. John, traditional site of his grave. From the basilica, enjoy a commanding view of the area. You’ll visit the Museum of Ephesus for an up-close look at artifacts from the ancient city. Dinner at the hotel. Today, you will join the EPHESUS MEETING. Overnight in Kusadasi. (B,D)

May 26 Tue  Greek Island Patmos – Kusadasi
Take 07:00 am ferry to PATMOS. Arrive PATMOS at 11:00 am. Visit the Cave of Revelation and the Basilica of John. Take 3:00 pm ferry back to Kusadasi. Arrive back to Kusadasi at 7:00 pm. Transfer to hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

May 27 Wed  Departure – Fly Back to Washington, Dc
Transfer to Izmir Airport for TK 2311 09:00/10:00 am flight to Istanbul. Then, take the TK 7 13:35/18:10 connection flight to Washington, DC. Arrive back to Washington, DC at 18:10 same day. End of our services.