

SEVEN

CHURCHES IN REVELATION

Revealing Jesus

Revelation 2:1-7



Rev 2:1-7

1 ¶ "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. 4 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.



Rev 2:1-7

5 'Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent.

6 'Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- ① Ephesus
- ② Smyrna
- ③ Pergamos
- ④ Thyatira
- ⑤ Sardis
- ⑥ Philadelphia
- ⑦ Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



A Word from Jesus...

- Jesus is among His People!
- He prays, touches, heals and CORRECTS...
- Yes, JESUS SEES!!!
 - He notices WHAT we are doing
 - He encourages us and calls us
 - He promises “to those who overcome”!

A Church under attack

- We know a lot about Ephesus... (we live there!)
 - Busy metropolis of trade
 - Diana/Artemis ruled the morals and ethics
 - Commercialism and prostitution of every kind
 - Corruption and “just do it” attitudes
- BUT, Jesus was alive in this city!
 - Lives were set free and changed... “burning” books! (Acts 19:19)
 - Paul 2+ years, Timothy, Erastus, Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos

Who am I to you?

- Back to ch.1 revelation...
 - The One Who holds the 7 stars
 - The One Who Walks among the lampstands (churches)
- I know your deeds!
 - Toil and perseverance (2x); no endurance for evil men and false teachers/apostles (Nicolaitans vs. 6)
 - Error of Balaam (2:14), hated by Jesus – “super” apostles

But, one thing...

- You forgot your first love!
 - Discernment, love of truth, toil – all good
 - Without LOVING HIM? NOTHING!!!
 - They were conservative, but hollow!
 - Fighting controversies can do this to you...
 - Jesus must remain our HEART focus – LOVE!!!

The Way Back

- Remember –
 - go back to the passion and awareness of Him
 - Look back and see the difference
- REPENT –
 - Chang your mind, attitude and conduct
- Do the DEEDS –
 - First love acts...

Promises...

- Hear what the SPIRIT says to the churches!
- He who overcomes...*nikao*, pres. act.
 - To HIM – individuals
 - Eat from the Tree of Life
 - The Paradise of God
- What shall we do?