

7 Churches of Revelation

Ephesus - Church that left its First Love

Revelation 2:1-7

Introduction to Series

Revelation 1:4-6, 9-20 A revelation of Christ

Things that you have seen, are and are to come **19**

Written to the 7 Churches and us

Interpretation of the letters to the 7 Churches

1. Historical - ages of the history of the church
2. Descriptive - strengths and faults of various churches
3. Redemptive - messages of correction and hope for all believers

Introduction to the city of Ephesus

Major City of Roman Empire - called "crown jewel of east"

Estimated to have as many as 150 thousand residents + traders

Trade center with major harbor - rich and sophisticated (running water)

Library with over 12,000 scrolls, Education and 14 Temples

Artemis - 1 of 7 wonders of ant. World - 127 marble columns

Domitian - Statue 27 ft. on columns of Greek gods

Introduction to the Church

Acts 18-19

Established by Paul 2nd and 3rd Mission journeys - stayed almost 3 yrs.

Left its First Love Revelation 2:1-7

I. Christ

A. **Sovereign** - He who holds the 7 stars - messengers - in His Hands

B. **Present** - He who walks among the Lampstands - the church

II. Commendation

A. **Hard working** - deeds and toil - ongoing and persistent

B. **Doctrinal correctness** - do not tolerate false doctrine - test all

Eat meat dedicated to idols, bow down to Emperor

Partake in immorality

D. **Perseverance** - under heavy persecution (**Acts 19-20**)

Have not grown weary doing tasks

III. Complaint

A. **I have one thing against you**

One sin ruins all - rich young ruler

B. **You have left your first love**

First means primary as well as beginning

IV. Counsel

A. **Remember** - recall the fire of your beginning
- recall the song of joy and peace

B. **Repent** - Turn again to Christ and away from world

C. **Restore** - do the things you first did - Gathered with joy

Prayed with fever and faith, studied the Word with obedient hearts

D. **Rekindle the love** - or lose all - lampstand removed

V. Compensation

A. **To all who hear - means to hear and do**

B. **To those who overcome** John 16:33 1 John 5:5 Romans 12:21

C. **Eat of the Tree of Life** Genesis 3:22-14

D. In the Paradise of God = Garden of God

VI. Crux

A. **Serving God can become a duty, task, and struggle**

B. **God desires more than just diligence**

He desires our heart

C. **He offers to hold us in His hand and walk with us**

He desires fellowship on the deepest levels

Can you remember a time when you loved God with more Zeal or fire?

Does serving God seem a drudgery?

Do you long to have that first love relationship again?

Remember - it was not a fantasy - it was real.

Repent - tell the Lord you are sorry for moving away from Him.

Restore the deeds of love

Time with Him, Prayer, The Word, deeds of love to others

If you cannot recall a time that you had a deep love for Christ

Heed His knocking at the door of your heart

Repent of your sin and ask for forgiveness

Allow Him to be the Lord of every area of your life.