



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 035 (Revised): Letters to the 7 Churches 1: Ephesus

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Read Revelation 2:1-7

Introduction. This is the first of the seven letters, dictated by the risen Lord Jesus in a vision to the Apostle John, that were to be written down and sent to churches in Asia Minor. The letters follow a similar pattern: (1) things the Lord found pleasing and/or displeasing about the church, (2) assurances and/or warnings, (3) call to repent, (4) the consequence of repentance or refusal to repent. (where necessary), (5) promise to the overcomer.

1. The Sender. In verse 1, the Lord introduces Himself as the one who “holds the seven stars” and “walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands.” What are these (see Rev 1:20) and what are the implications of the Lord holding the stars and walking among the lampstands? Find out from Commentaries who the *angels* of the seven churches are thought to be.

2. Commendations. For what were the Ephesian Christians commended?

3. Concern. What caused the Lord concern (v4)? How was this manifested (see v5a)?

4. Call. What were the Ephesians to do to show their repentance? Compare this with v3b. Does this suggest to you that the Lord’s commendation was somewhat qualified; or maybe their labour was becoming motivated more by duty than by love? What do you think?

5. Promise to the overcomer. What does “eat(ing) from the tree of life” mean? (see Genesis 3:22.) (Note: The exhortation to overcome was probably to maintain faith and commitment in the face of the persecution the churches were suffering at the time these letters were written; but even without organised persecution, Christians face multitude of evils and problems that we have to overcome.)

To think about:

1. Has my love for the Lord grown or diminished since I first knew Him?
2. Have I got “ears to hear” what the Spirit is saying to *me*?

To dig deeper: Find out what you can about the life and culture of 1st Century Ephesus and consider how the Church there might have been influenced by their society.