

THE UNVEILING OF JESUS CHRIST

"The Church that Left It's First Love"

Revelation 2:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

1. We now begin in chapter 2 the second of the three sections of Revelation as outlined in **Revelation 1:19**.

- a) **Chapter 1** *"The things which you have seen"*
- b) **Chapter 4** *"and those that are to take place after this"*
- c) **Chapters 2 and 3** *"those that are"*

2. **Golden Lampstand -**

- a) **Lampstand** - made from one piece of pure gold.
- b) **Lamps** - made of clay representing the churches and their humanity.
- c) **Oil** - represents the Holy Spirit who indwells the Lamps
- d) **Wick** - when lit represents the light of the Glorious Gospel which dispels the darkness and reflects the beauty of the Lampstand.

3. **Chapter 1:9-11**

4. **Description of Christ - Vs 12-13a**

a) **Vs 13**

- 1) *"and in the midst of the lampstands, one like a son of man"*
- 2) *"clothed with a long robe"*
 - a. Speaks of Royalty
- 3) *"and with a golden sash around his chest"*
 - a. Speaks of Righteous Justice

b) **Vs 14**

- 1) *"The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow"*
- 2) *"His eyes were like a flame of fire"*

c) **Vs 15**

- 1) *"His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace of earth"*
- 2) *"his voice was like the roar of many waters"*

d) **Vs 16**

- 1) *"from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword"*
 - a. *Ephesians 6:17*
- 2) *"In his right hand he held seven stars"*
 - a. *Stars* = pastors
 - b. *Right hand* = authority/control
- 3) *"and his face was like the sun shining in full strength."*
 - a. *Matthew 17:2*

I. THE ADDRESSEE OF THE LETTER

1. Revelation 2:1

a) "To the angel"

1) "**angel**" = messenger, refers to the pastor of the church.

2. Ephesus was the most prominent city in Roman Asia Minor.

a) It was the most religious and commercial center for that part of the world.

b) The Temple of Diana was there.

3. Paul established a church in Ephesus on his second missionary journey and later spent 3 years there.

4. It is very likely that John the apostle became the head of that church following Timothy's ministry.

5. **BIG**: It was while John was living in Ephesus that he was taken captive and exiled to Patmos. Why??? 1:9

II. A DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST GIVEN

1. Amazing how when Christ delivers His message to each of the seven churches, He focuses on one of the aspects of His own character.

a) **Revelation 1:12-18**

2. I.e. Smyrna - **Revelation 2:8**

a) **Cf. 1:17-18**

1) It is that aspect of Christ's identity that will meet the need of the church in Smyrna.

3. To the church of Ephesus Christ is portrayed as "***the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands***" 2:1

III. THE COMMENDATION OF THE CHURCH

1. Vs 2-3

A. THIS CHURCH WAS AN INFLUENTIAL CHURCH

1. This church had a dynamic congregation doing the work of the Lord.

a) Vs 2a

1) Jesus said "***I know your works***"

2) ***Ephesians 2:8-9, 10***

2. People who understand Grace Biblically serve abundantly.
 - a) The Word of God was spreading throughout Asia as a result of the ministries of this church in Ephesus.
3. Way to many Churches spend their whole existence in a maintenance mode instead of a missions mode.
 - a) **Acts 19:10**

B. THIS CHURCH WAS A COMMITTED CHURCH

1. Vs 2
 - a) *"your toil and patient endurance"*
 - 1) **"toil"** - has to do with working to the point of exhaustion.
 - a. The Ephesians were paying a price to serve the Lord.
 - b. They were exhausted from their labor.
2. **2 Samuel 24:24**
 - a) King David is an example of service that costs something.

C. THIS CHURCH WAS AN INTOLERANT CHURCH

1. This church was committed to values.
2. Vs 2
 - a) *"and how you cannot bear with those who are evil"* WOW
3. This church would not tolerate evil within their church.
 - a) This church practiced church discipline!!!
 - 1) **Proverbs 6:16-19**
 - 2) **Romans 16:17-18**
 - 3) **Matthew 18**

D. THIS CHURCH WAS A DISCERNING CHURCH

1. Vs 2
 - a) *"but have tested those who call themselves apostles"*
2. **WOW!!!** This church fought hard to have the right theology!!
 - a) Theology simply means - Theo (God) Logos (Knowledge)
3. Historians tell us that up until about 150AD there were some church leaders who traveled about claiming to have been appointed by one of the twelve original apostles.
4. **VERY IMPORTANT:** The Ephesians would have no part of it!!!
 - a) They barred such apostles from their church.

5. *Acts 1:21-22*

6. Vs 6

a) *"Yet this you have, you hate the works of the Nicolaitans"*

b) Who were the Nicolaitans??

1) This is not a translation but a transliteration.

2) **"Nico"** - means to conquer

3) **"Laitan"** - English laity

c) Nicolaitan means to **"conquer the laity"**

7. Many scholars feel the Nicolaitans advocated a distinction between the clergy and the laity in the early church.

a) *1 Peter 2:5; 9*

IV. THE PROBLEM WITH THE CHURCH

1. Vs 4

2. **WOW!!!** To leave your first love is to leave the excitement and devotion you once had.

3. That's what happened to the Ephesian church.

a) *"They abandoned the love they had at first"*

V. THE CURE FOR THE CHURCH

A. REMEMBER FROM WHERE YOU HAVE FALLEN

1. Vs 5

a) *"Remember therefore from where you have fallen".*

2. To Remember is to meditate on what your relationship with Christ was like when you first got saved.

B. REPENT

1. Vs 5

a) Repenting means changing your mind and turning to go in the opposite direction.

2. It's a choice!!! It was a choice to leave!!! It's a choice to go back.

3. Vs 5

a) *"If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place."*