

To The Ephesians

TEXT: Rev. 2:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

A. LETTERS TO CHURCHES OF ASIA.

1. Name the 7 churches.
2. Good information for us (**1 Cor. 16:1; 4:17; 14:33**).

B. FORM OF THE LETTERS:

1. Salutation.
2. Jesus' self designation.
3. Commendation of good.
4. Condemnation of evil.
5. Warning or threat of judgment.
6. Exhortation.
7. Promise.

C. WE WILL FOLLOW THIS FORM.

I. TO EPHESUS.

- A. ESTABLISHED (**Acts 18:19-21, 24-28; 19**).
- B. EPISTLE, INDICATES MATURITY; WRITTEN FROM PRISON.
- C. FAREWELL. (**Acts 20:17-38**). BEFORE PRISON EPISTLE.

II. JESUS' SELF DESCRIPTION (**vs. 1**).

- A. NEARLY ALL FROM (**1:12-20**).
- B. 7 STARS IN RIGHT HAND → CONTROL & PROTECTION (**1:16, 20**).
- C. WALKS IN THE MIDST OF THE CANDLESTICKS (**1:12-13, 20**).

1. His presence (**Phil. 4:4-5; Matt. 18:20**).
2. He knows – good and bad (**Heb. 4:12-13**).

III. COMMENDATION – I KNOW THY WORKS (**vs. 2, 3, 6**).

A. TOIL AND PATIENCE (**1 Cor. 15:58**).

1. Works not just deeds, but service.
2. Stedfastness → **Heb. 12:1-2**. Keeping on.
3. Patience in trial. Patience from trial (**Jas. 1:2-4**).

B. THOU CANST NOT BEAR EVIL MEN (**vs. 2, 6**).

1. False apostles – Teachers of error (**2 Cor. 11:3-4**).
2. There is false teaching (**2 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 4:3-4**).
3. The danger of it (**Acts 20:29-30; Gal. 1:6-9; Matt. 15:14-15; 2 John 9**).
4. What to do?
 - a. Preach the truth (**2 Tim. 4:1-2; Acts 20:26**).
 - b. Hold the pattern (**2 Tim. 1:13-14**).
 - c. Correct the false teacher (**2 Tim. 2:24ff**).
 - d. Discipline (**Rom. 11:17-18; Titus 3:9-10; 2 Thess. 3:6**).

5. THEY DID THIS!

C. **vs. 6**. HATED THE WORKS, NOT THE SINNER (**Jude 22-23**).

IV. REBUKES OF EVIL (**vs. 4**).

A. LEFT THEIR FIRST LOVE.

1. Faithful in every outward respect.
2. Must have to do with the inner man → **ATTITUDE!**

B. THAT WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT.

1. What comes first (**Matt. 6:33**).
2. Ahead of what? (**Luke 14:25ff; 1 John 2:15-17**).
3. Manifest in willingness to work (**Acts 5:42; 8:4; Titus 3:1**).

C. THAT WHICH THEY HELD AT FIRST.

1. What had the Ephesians done? (**Acts 19:18-20; 20:37; Eph. 1:15**).
2. And otherw in their zeal (**Heb. 10:32-39; 2 Cor. 8:5**).

D. WHAT DID THEY HOLD BACK NOW? (**Luke 14:33**).

V. THREAT (**vs. 5** → **Matt. 7:22-23**). LOSS OF IDENTITY.

VI. EXHORTATION.

A. REPENT! Change Of Heart.

1. A revival of Zeal (**Rom. 12:11; Titus 2:14**).
 - a. Exemplified in the Corinthians (**2 Cor. 8:5**).
 - b. Exemplified in Paul (**Gal. 2:20**).
 - c. And in Jesus (**John 2:13-17**).
2. Right doctrine is necessary – **but not enough!**
3. Loyal to God, not to the church!

B. AND DO THE FIRST WORKS.

C. NECESSARY TO BE FORGIVEN (**1 John 1:6-7**).

VII. TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH:

A. ACCESS TO THE TREE OF LIFE (**Gen. 3:22-24**). **ETERNAL LIFE**.

B. IN THE PARADISE OF GOD.

1. Fellowship → like in the Garden.
2. **1 John 1:7; Rev. 21:1-4.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. DOES THIS DESCRIBE US?
 1. Commendation?
 2. Condemnation?
- C. DO WE NEED REPENTANCE?