

7 Churches - Ephesus

Introduction: Asia Minor; Greek language; Fall of Jerusalem; Judaism; Hellenism; Temple cults; Acts 19; "knowledge"

The Church at Ephesus – Revelation 2:1-7

Ephesus – Geography; religions; "Letters"; politics; Panamanian Games; Aquila & Priscilla

Revelation 2:1-3, 6 - Nothing is hid from God's eyes, he is omniscient and knows everything. Acts 20:29-31; Matthew 7:15

Nicolaitans - They were antinomian in nature and wanted less rules and relaxing of the ones that existed. They were followers of Balaam (Numbers 25)

What I Learn: Patient endurance (2:2,3) - Part of walking by faith is patiently waiting upon God as he works out his will in the local Church.

This church "could not bear with those who are evil" (2:2).

People are not driven off or cast out, they are confronted, patiently, they are born with and the leaders are not put off by their presence; they work with them while protecting the flock. God sees his own and loves them wherever they are in their spiritual journey.

Revelation 2:4-5 - There is something that Christ sees, "you have abandoned the love you had at first" (2:4).

Precept: If we don't stand accountable to the Word of God offered by the servants of God in this life we will most certainly be accountable before God at the end of the age.

Revelation 2:7 - First, "He who has ears"; Second, "To the one who conquers"

What I Learn: "What should be the first love of any one Church?" and "Does God have a first love that should be part of all Churches?"

Conclusion: This letter gives insight into true Christian maturity.

New Testament love is a defining element of the local Church and should never take a back seat. Church leadership is responsible for this proper Biblical balance in Church life.

The promises at the end of each letter wrap together the victor's crown. We must see that the results of living for Christ are not our responsibility, living for Christ is, and that is what is at stake in this warning.

The local Church has three primary activities; first, a clear proclamation of the Gospel; second, consistent practice of the ordinances, and third, the faithful administration of New Testament Church discipline. The gospel is not complete without the love of God leading!