

Ephesus – The Church That Served Without Love

Revelation 2:1-7

Introduction: Ephesus is the only city to receive two letters that we have recorded in the Bible. Paul wrote one to Ephesus where he spent three years of ministry and where he nearly lost his life – He fought with the Lions at Ephesus. John also wrote to Ephesus at the direction of Jesus whom he met while an exile on Patmos. John had gotten into trouble for his personal testimony and for preaching the word. Paul's letter was 6 chapters long and urged the Ephesians to love and unity. John wrote a letter of just 7 verses and warned them that they had better get back to love and unity or else!

Describing Ephesus

Ephesus was a very wicked, dark and pagan place.

- The Temple of Artemis, (Diana) one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world, was in Ephesus.
- So can a church thrive in a place like that?

Read: 1-7

- 1) Jesus comes **to Church** - Jesus is always present at Church (2:1) Look back up at chapter 1 verse 12. Jesus is there in the midst of the lampstands. The last verse of chapter 1 tells us that the lampstands are the churches. Jesus is here **every week**. He is here and he is running an **inspection**.
 - a) He holds his **messengers** - In his right hand - Look at 2:1
 - b) He beholds their **ministries** – he manages by **walking around**. He is in the midst.
- 2) Jesus **commends** his churches - Jesus is always presiding at church (2:2-3) Now don't get the idea that all is bad news. Jesus sees and he knows what churches are about and some of them are really all about pleasing the Lord.
 - a) He knows who is serving with **perseverance** – laboring
 - b) He knows who is suffering with **patience** – enduring
 - c) He knows who is spiritually **perceptive** – discerning
 - d) He knows who is shunning **sinful practice** – separated

- 3) Jesus **corrects** his churches (2:4-5) – Jesus is always inspecting his church
 - a) He Knows who is **heartless**
 - b) He knows who is **loveless**
 - i) They had forsaken their **first love** – Ephesians 1:15
 - ii) They had fallen from their **first love** – Ephesians 3:14-19
 - iii) They had failed in their **first works** – Ephesians 3:20-21; 4:1-3; 4:15-16
- 4) Jesus **constrains** his church – Jesus is always purifying his church (2:7)
 - a) **Remember** from where you have fallen
 - b) **Repent** – change your mind and change your ways
 - c) **Return** – go back to your first love. (Acts 2:42-47)
 - i) Do you remember what love was like at the first of your relationship with your mate?
 - ii) Do you remember the Great Commandment?
 - iii) We had better remember or we will be **removed**
 - (1)He will shut out the **light**
 - (2)He will remove the **church**

Verse 7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."