

To the Church at Ephesus

Date: January 27, 2021

Text: Revelation 2:1-7

- Review:

- Why do you think this was written to seven churches?
 - *written to real churches, but also symbolizes this message is for the whole church at all times*
- Big message of the letters to the seven churches:
 - Churches are usually not very healthy
 - But we should strive to be one of the few that stand out like Smyrna and Philadelphia
- The two big things we learned last week:
 - These letters weren't just for churches back then.
 - This book isn't just about things that are going to happen.

- Background on Ephesus

- Who ministered in Ephesus for three years? (Acts 19; 20:31)
 - *Paul*
- What was Paul's warning to the elders of the church at Ephesus? (Acts 20:28-32)
 - *Be alert, because false teachers are coming*
- Who did Paul later send to the church at Ephesus? Why? (1 Timothy 1:3-5)
 - *Timothy; to defend against false teaching and keep the church on track*

- The Letter

- What from the vision of Jesus in chapter one can you find in this letter?
 - *Seven stars, seven golden lampstands*
- What was Ephesus doing right?
 - *Keeping and defending the truth, Rejected false teachers, persevered hardship and have not grown weary*

- What has Ephesus done wrong?
 - *Lost the love they had at first*
- What does that mean?
 - *Lost their love for God, Lost their love for each other, and were no longer faithful to witness.*
- What does Jesus threaten will happen to them if they do not repent? What does that mean?
 - *Their lamp stand will be removed: They will lose their identity as a church.*
- v. 4 Jesus tells them to “remember how far you have fallen, repent, and do the works you did at first.” Why would looking back be helpful?
 - *It’s easy to drift off course over time. Looking back can help keep us on track.*
- What does the “tree of life, which is in the paradise of God” bring to mind? What does it represent?
 - *Garden of Eden, represents the redemptive effects of the cross, which bring about the restoration of God’s presence (Beale)*
- v. 7 says “to the one” and not “to the church.” Is our personal salvation our own responsibility or our church’s?
 - *It is our own personal responsibility to follow Jesus*
- v. 7 What is meant by “let anyone who has ears to hear listen”?
 - *Use in the OT by prophets, used by Jesus when telling parables, Message is designed to enlighten some and blind others.*
- What lessons can we learn from this?
 - *We must protect against false teaching*
 - *We must defend the truth of the gospel*
 - *We must never stop loving God and one another.*
 - *We must never stop sharing the good news of Jesus.*