

# “Unshakable – Part 6”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, July 21, 2019

**Revelation 2:1-7 NKJV:** “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,

‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: <sup>2</sup>“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. <sup>6</sup> But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

<sup>7</sup> “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.”

\* When the **Ephesus Church** was founded, it was established out from a mighty move of God:

1. They had an eagerness to repent and to receive what God had for them (see **Acts 19:1-6**).
2. They cherished the Word of God (see **Acts 19:8**).
3. They sacrificed their religious reputation for Jesus (see **Acts 19:9**).
4. They were committed to applying God’s Word to their lives (see **Acts 19:10**).
5. They were receptive to the power of God and to the gifts of the Spirit (see **Acts 19:11,12**).
6. They loved Jesus and the wonder-working power associated with His name (see **Acts 19:17**).
7. They were quick to confess their sin and turn from their evil works (see **Acts 19:18**).
8. They severed all connections with a pagan past at great personal cost (see **Acts 19:19**).
9. They were publicly persecuted for the sake of Christ (see **1 Corinthians 15:32**).
10. They were faith-filled (see **Ephesians 1:15**).
11. They were known for their love of the brethren (see **Ephesians 1:15**).
12. They hated the teaching and deeds of the Nicolaitans.

## The Teaching and Deeds of the Nicolaitans:

a. No emphasis on holy living and separation from the world's lifestyles.

**1 Peter 1:14-16 NKJV:** <sup>14</sup> as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; <sup>15</sup> but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

b. No emphasis on teaching the complete truth of God's Word, especially messages that deal with conduct, behavior, works of the flesh and sinful lifestyles, choosing not to live godly, holy, living righteously, in purity, integrity, or living to please God, because of their preferring inclusiveness and tolerance.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV:** <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

c. No exclusionary belief that Jesus Christ alone is the only way of salvation and to heaven.

**John 14:5-6 AMP:** <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going; so how can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the [only] Way [to God] and the [real] Truth and the [real] Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

**Acts 4:11-12 (NLT Study Bible):**

<sup>11</sup> For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says,

'The stone that you builders rejected  
has now become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup> There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

d. No warnings to the Body of Christ that those who practice sin will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11 AMP:** <sup>9</sup> Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [by perversion], nor those who participate in homosexuality, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers [whose words are used as weapons to abuse, insult, humiliate, intimidate, or slander], nor swindlers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you [before you believed]. But you were washed [by the atoning sacrifice of Christ], you were sanctified [set apart for God, and made holy], you were justified [declared free of guilt] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God [the source of the believer's new life and changed behavior].

e. “There is no need for repentance anymore; God completely overlooks the sins of a believer.”

**Revelation 2:16 NKJV:** Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

f. What is God’s will for my life as a Christian?

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 AMP:** Finally, believers, we ask and admonish you in the Lord Jesus, that you follow the *instruction* that you received from us about how you ought to walk and please God (just as you are actually doing) and that you excel even more and more [pursuing a life of purpose and living in a way that expresses gratitude to God for your salvation]. <sup>2</sup> For you know what commandments *and* precepts we gave you by the *authority of* the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, that you be sanctified [separated and set apart from sin]: that you abstain *and* back away from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor [being available for God’s purpose and separated from things profane], <sup>5</sup> not [to be used] in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God *and* are ignorant of His will; <sup>6</sup> and that [in this matter of sexual misconduct] no man *shall* transgress and defraud his brother because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we have told you before and solemnly warned you. <sup>7</sup> For God has not called us to impurity, but to holiness [to be dedicated, and set apart by behavior that pleases Him, whether in public or in private]. <sup>8</sup> So whoever rejects *and* disregards this is not [merely] rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you [to dwell in you and empower you to overcome temptation].

God told the Church at Ephesus (**Revelation 2:5**), “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.”

- Remember that the fire of God that used to burn within you.
- Repent; change the way you think right now.
- Repentance requires proof; do the first works!!