

Revelation and Daniel – Revelation 2:1-7

Church and Passage	Characterization Verse 1	Commendation Verses 2-3, 6	Criticism Verse 4	Charge Verse 5	Consequence Verse 7
Ephesus 2:1-7	One who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands	Their deeds, perseverance intolerance of wicked men, testing of apostles, endurance, and hatred of the deeds of the Nicolaitans	They left their first love	Remember your former passion, repent, and repeat your first deeds	They will receive permission to eat of the tree of life in God's paradise

To the angel – This probably speaks of the human messenger, either the elder or representative who carried this letter to the church. (Mark 1:2 of John the Baptist, Luke 9:52 of human messengers).

Characterization – verse 1

“The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands...”

Right hand – Denotes security! Our Position! John 10:28

Walks among – Denotes fellowship! Our State!

Commendation – Verse 2-3, 6

I know = *odia* which reflects full and exact knowledge. This word is used of Jesus eight times in Revelation.

Their deeds

Their toil and perseverance

Their intolerance of evil men

Their testing of false apostles

Their endurance for Christ's Name

Their hatred of the deeds of the Nicolaitans

Nicolaitans – These people appear to be followers of a man named Nicolas. Irenaeus wrote that they were without restraint in their indulgence of the flesh. Nicolaitanism typifies any system that seeks to dominate rather than serve people.

Criticism – Verse 4

You have left your first love

1 Their love for each other

2 Their love for Christ

First – In importance

Love – *agape* = Self sacrificial love. Paul uses this word 10 times in the book of Ephesians.

Note Ephesians 1:4, 15, 2:4, 3:17, 19, 4:2, 15, 16, 5:2, 6:23

Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you...

Charge – Verse 5

The corrective is a three-step process -

Remember from where you have fallen – Remember how they used to feel about Jesus.

Repent – Change their attitude.

Return – To the love that once motivated them (*do the deeds you did at the first*).

Danger of ignoring the charge – Jesus will remove its lampstand.

“It is only as we love Christ fervently that we can serve him faithfully.”

“The church that loses its love will soon lose its light, no matter how doctrinally sound it may be.” Warren Wiersbe

Consequence – Verse 7

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches – This phrase ends each of the messages to the seven churches. The implication is that each believer hears with understanding and acts upon the received word.

To him who overcomes – Some think this refers to all true believers based on 1 John 5:4-5. However it appears this is a special reward to those believers who “hear” and are faithful.

I will grant to eat of the tree of life – This speaks of participation in life eternal. Note Proverbs 3:18, 11:30, 13:12, 15:4. It seems that those who faithfully serve Christ will enjoy a closer fellowship with Him, i.e., experience of eternal life (John 17:3).

Which is in the paradise of God – The word for *paradise* occurs three times in the New Testament (Luke 23:43, 2 Corinthians 12:4, Revelation 2:7). The base meaning is *a garden* and the restored garden of Eden may be one of the meanings.