

LETTERS

Today I will begin this series over the 7 Letters to the seven churches in Revelation

The Lord started speaking to me in May

They represent the historical congregations in Asia Minor and symbolic types of believers and churches throughout history

These letters provide timeless instructions and spiritual guidance for all Christian churches revealing the unchanging character of Jesus

These letters are Jesus' revelation to us about what He loves and values in His church as well as what He hates and condemns

This is a clear message from Christ regarding the consequences of disobedience and spiritual neglect and the rewards of spiritual vigilance and faithfulness to Christ and His Word

Rev 2:1-7 NKJV “To the ^[a]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: ² “I know your works, your labor, your ^[b]patience, and that you cannot ^[c]bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. ⁴ Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. 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. ⁶ But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

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.” ’

You can't get a more direct message from Jesus about the churches post-resurrection (notice these writings are in red, He would have never put this in scripture if it didn't apply to His church throughout history)

v. 2-4

The church at Ephesus was doctrinally sound and they worked tirelessly but they had left their first love for Christ

Notice it doesn't say they lost it by accident but instead they left it on purpose

Jesus warns us here that truth without love produces a harsh religion. He urges them to return to a more balanced faith centered on a real heartfelt relationship with Christ

The church in Ephesus worked hard, patient endurance, and rejected false teachers but their devotion was routine, dry, and a loveless duty

Love is not automatic, even though our love for God is the greatest commandment

Matt 22:37,38 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment.

Love requires continuous action and devotion it's not just a decision at salvation but a relationship to grow!

v. 4

Jesus said your love for me is no longer fervent.

Do you remember how your relationship used to be, maybe if you think back it could spark a return to your first love

They had lost their awe of God by just following a routine and things of God became mundane and repetitious, instead of fervent and powerful!

Jesus shows us how to fix this problem

v. 5

Remember: think back to the time when your love for God was fresh and full of passion

Remember the height from which they had fallen and recall the intensity of their first love for Christ

Repent: turn away from the path of spiritual indifference and acknowledge the distance between you and the Lord now compared to what it once was!

Turn away from your spiritual coldness and mere acts of worship and works of ministry

Do the First Works over: So start doing the works you did when you first met Jesus and loved Him dearly

Matt 7:7-8 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

I must once again seek Him on purpose and that is how I demonstrate my love through action

He’s saying return to where you first left your first love and repeat the loving obedience and passion you once had

Jesus warning:

If you don’t repent and do the first works over He would remove the Ephesian’s lampstand because they left their first love

To remove your lampstand means a loss of God’s presence, possibly removing them from God’s kingdom, withdrawing the power of the Holy Spirit, blessing, no longer recognize them as a legitimate church

If you listen to what the Spirit says: Those who repent and repeat their first works and stay committed and faithful to the Lord will have the great reward of access to the Tree of Life in the Paradise of God

Eternal fellowship with God: not just those who return to their first love but overcame all distractions will inherit lasting eternal fellowship

We must keep our love for Christ alive. Christ won't tolerate good works and truth but no love

Balanced truth and love, when you have love without truth you have a church like so many today – woke, worldly, compromising, trying to do church (elaborate)

The Holy Spirit told me on Sept 16 pertaining to this passage we all need realignment in our spiritual life at times, if not this happens

**Illustrate tires out of alignment from my journal

Jesus modeled truth and love and His balance produced a healthy lifestyle for both us and the church