

Fundamental but Frigid
The Church at Ephesus
Revelation 2:1-7

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Here in Revelation 2 and 3 there are messages to 7 literal churches. Bible teachers have said that they also represent time periods beginning with the time that the Lord Jesus was here on this earth. The messages for these churches are applicable for us today. God's Word is never out of date; it is good for whatever time period it is applied too.

Ephesus was an important town in the NT Bible time. It was a great commercial, political, and religious center for Asia Minor. It was a major trading port as a result of that people were coming there from around the known world. Ephesus was the home of John before and after Patmos. It was also the home of the goddess Diana, the fertility god.

After Paul went there and established the church, great things happened spiritually in the city. Acts 19 records the accounts of the magic books being burned and the silversmiths rioting for hours. The church at Ephesus sent people into different areas as missionaries; the church was instrumental in getting the gospel to the known world of that time. The ministry there was effective and vibrant. The gospel message was not always well received there, but the church was very active.

1. The Savior's description of the church v.1
 - a. Describes the 7 stars
 - i. Stars are the pastors of the church (1:20)
 - ii. Pastors are the objects of God's special care
 - b. Describes walking among the candlesticks
 - i. Jesus died for the church (Acts 20:28)

ii. Jesus cares for the churches

- He wants to administer the churches
- He wants to help the churches

2. The Savior's distinction of the church v.2-4

a. The commendation of the church

The effort of the church

- Their doctrine was right v.2
- Their duty was right v.3
 - o Worked
 - o Patient
- Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
- Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
- Proverbs 24:10 *If* thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength *is* small.

The exposure of sin

They Exposed false teachers

- Willing to do what was needed

Tried false apostles

- Tried their doctrine and manner

b. The condemnation v.4

- Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all

thy mind v.38 This is the first and great commandment v. 39
And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour
as thyself v.40 On these two commandments hang all the
law and the prophets.

Coasting

- Just going through the motions

Commonplace

- The things of the Lord were just not very exciting
- The things of the Lord were just normal, not special

Calloused

- Spiritual things have a dead influence
 - o They don't challenge you
 - o They don't change you

3. The Savior's demand of the church v.5-7

a. The way

Remember

- Remember where and what you were
 - o Sinner with no hope
 - o Saint with nothing but opportunity
- Realized where and what you have been
 - o Going through the motions
 - o Gain has become more important than God

Repent

- Turn from the wrong direction back to the Lord

b. The warning

Return

- To your 1st love
 - o Attitude more important than action
 - o If your attitude is right, then your actions will become right

Remove

- Whatever keeps your heart cold
- May not be sin

Results

- The church at Ephesus did not exist by the 3rd century