

The Church of Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7

Introduction

There are many types of churches in the world:

Cathedrals / Mega Churches / House Churches

Styles / Approaches

Ephesus is a well-known NT Church:

Ephesus is the largest Roman Province in Asia Minor (Turkey) / Along the Cayster River flowing into the Aegean Sea

100,000-250,000 people

Temple of Dianna = 7 Wonders of the World = 425 ft long = 450 ft wide = 130 Columns laid with gold 60 ft high.

Idol worship and icons sales were a major part of the economy

Church Heritage:

Paul / Timothy / John / Virgin Mary / Mary Magdalene were members

John taught them to love at Ephesus

Verse 1 The Stars and the Candlestick and the Messengers

1. The stars are the angels
2. The Lampstands are the churches
3. The Messengers are the pastors
4. Jesus is in the midst of them all

Verses 2-3,6 All they were doing right

1. They worked hard
2. They labored hard
3. Labor = work to the point of exhaustion
4. They were patient in trial (vs 2-3)
5. They hated evil

6. They were doctrinally solid
7. Nicalaitans were heretics

Verses 4 What they were doing wrong

1. They have left their first love
2. Ephesians 6:24 They were a church of love
3. Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)
4. Vance Havner: "People can have a gun barrel that is straight as an arrow theologically but completely empty with spiritual bullets."
5. The intimacy was gone
6. They worked for Jesus but lost the wonder of Jesus

Verses 5 How to fix it

1. Remember go back to the place
2. The Song "We will Remember"
3. Repent
4. Repeat
5. I remember the place I accepted Christ
6. Remove your candlestick
7. You will lose your influence
8. The story of the Father and Son inheritance story

Verse 7 What was in store

1. He that has an ear let him hear
2. To him that overcomes
3. Overcome = Nikao = Greek goddess of victory (Nike)
4. The victorious will eat of the tree of life in heaven
5. The Opposite of Genesis 3

Conclusion:

1. Don't let the work for God cause you to lose your wonder of God
2. Remember / Repent / Repeat
3. Fall back in love with Jesus

Challenge:

1. Do this apply to you?
2. Does this apply to PVBC?