

SERMON NOTES

The 7 Churches of Revelation - 2 Ephesus

BACKGROUND

Around 95 AD John, who was an old man by now, was in prison on the Island of Patmos because of his faith. He had a vision of Jesus, which we call the book of Revelation, and he was given 7 messages for 7 churches that were nearby -
Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea

The vision starts with a vision of Jesus, and then he gives the 7 messages to the 7 churches. And the first message to the first Church - Ephesus

<p>Revelation 2:1-7 (NKJV) 1 "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: 2 "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; 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."</p>	<p>What was Ephesus like? Jesus' description of Himself - a part of the whole picture from Rev 1. He knows and is concerned and involved. This Church had persevered and worked hard but... Their first love had waned... His command:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember • Repent • Re-do <p>It's all about GRACE. He hates their deeds but not them. Spiritual ears to hear. All the Churches' messages. Be Overcomers.</p>
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The 6 elements in EVERY church letter –

1. He KNOWS
2. He sees the world differently to how you may see it – get HIS perspective
3. He has a message and is still speaking today
4. The Churches and their leaders are very important to Him – He uses them
5. He who has ear hear...spirit...Churches
6. Overcome!

Angelos - a human messenger:-

James 2:25 (NKJV): Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

Matthew 11:10 (NKJV): "For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.' See also **Mk 1:2 and Lk 7:27**

Luke 7:24 (NKJV): When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

Luke 9:52 (NKJV): And sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.

MAIN MESSAGE TODAY:

1. He KNOWS
2. He sees the world differently to how you may see it - get HIS perspective
3. He has a message and is still speaking today
4. The Churches and their leaders are very important to Him - He uses them
5. We must have "EARS to hear"
6. We must overcome
7. Renew your FIRST LOVE

Revelation 1:9-20 (NKJV):

9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

19 "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

20 "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.