

1 ☐ A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

LESSON 07

2 ☐ REVELATION 2:1

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write ; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.

- The name Ephesus means: first love
- This is the church that began with the infilling of the Holy Ghost in Acts chapter 1 (the day of Pentecost) and ends about 170 AD
- The name of the church age shows the spiritual state of the church in that time era

3 ☐ REVELATION 2:2 & 3

2 I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.

4 ☐ THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

- The praise: their faith and faithfulness
- Vs 3 – *patience* means “steadfastness”
- This church held true to the faith
- It not only kept unbelief out of the church, but it also kept out unbelievers (tares)
- We find in these churches what is pleasing to God and what is not
- It can be difficult to for a teacher to bring out some of the severity and strong words from the Judge

5 ☐ THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS cont.

- Lowering the standards of belief or practice God has set in place will bring His judgement against you
- We need to stand up for the truth and not just for ourselves
- This church not only kept unbelief out of the church, but it also kept out unbelievers (tares)

- It is not just keeping sin, unbelief, and untruth out of the congregation but it also keeping it from behind the pulpit

6 ☐ **HEBREWS 12:1 - 8**

1 Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith ; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him :

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not ?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

7 ☐ **THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS cont.**

- We will be lined up, compared with, this first church
- We are in the same dispensation, that of grace
- They did resist unto blood and were persecuted unto death
- We today are expected to remain faithful and steadfast (unmovable)
- We will be expected to have the same love, the same powers, the same strength as this early church

8 ☐ **THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS cont.**

- They were faithful in spite of Satan's presence
- They had the same faith and good works whether things were going good or bad
- Jesus commended them because they tried the spirits
- How do we try the spirits?

9 ☐ **1TIMOTHY 4:1-2**

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

10 ☐ **REVELATION 2:2 & 3**

2 I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.

11 ☐ **1JOHN 4:1-2**

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God : Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

12 ☐ **REVELATION 2:2 & 3**

2 I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.

13 ☐ **2 CORINTHIANS 11:12-15**

12 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to

their works.

14 ☐ **THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS cont.**

- The Spirit bears witness to the Spirit
- Seducing spirits will lead you the way you want
- God seldom leads you the way you want
- God is not a seducing spirit; He is very firm and He says what is written is written and it's never going to change
- It is Satan who will lead you the way you want to go
- God will lead you the way that is best for you

15 ☐ **THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS cont.**

- The early church was very faithful even in the midst of persecutions
- They were steadfast
- They loved the truth
- They tried the spirits and kept out those from their midst that were hypocrites
- The hypocrites are the tares and tares are only sown where there is wheat

16 ☐ **ACTS 20:28 - 31**

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

17 ☐ **THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS cont.**

- This first church was the church of Pentecost
- This was the first church called Christian
- Even with all its faith and steadfastness there is still reproof here
- The word *somewhat* in verse 4 was inserted by the translators

18 ☐ **THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS cont.**

- Verse 4 actually means: I have something serious against you

- The individual or church that has left its first love will suffer removal from the presence of Jesus Christ
- He will warn but if you do not get back that first love this is what will happen

19 ☐ **THE CHURCH AT EPHEBUS cont.**

- The church is not the organization or the building; the church is the people
- The money and the labor that goes into the great cathedrals and works that are called the churches are there so we can be comfortable and are for our enjoyment
- It is so easy to shift our motives from the love of Jesus to the love of the church i.e. the love of the organization, the building, etc.
- Our loyalty and first love should always be to Jesus

20 ☐ **THE CHURCH AT EPHEBUS cont.**

- If we are loyal to the church organization we become a self-centered or “love me” church
- This church is in grave danger
- Our love and devotion must be to Jesus Christ
- The overcomers from all seven church types are treated as one unit, they are one group in God’s eyes and *they* are the true church
- Each of the seven promises that we find in these seven church types apply to all overcomers together they constitute a seven-fold promise of eternal reward

21 ☐ **REVELATION 2:4 - 6**

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

22 ☐ **THE DEEDS OF THE NICOLAITANS**

- *Nico* is Greek for conquer
- *Laitanes* is the root word for laity
- Nicolaitans = conquerors of the laity

- When a church leaves its first love it turns its attention to ecclesiastical power and influence
- Ecclesiastical control of individual churches
- Cannot question the organization's authority
- In this case church loyalty is the demand of loyalty to themselves while they are leading the people away from the Bible.

23 ☐ **THE DEEDS OF THE NICOLAITANS cont.**

- The ministers of God are not there as overlords to His people
- They are there as examples and to feed the flock
- Ever since Jesus Christ died we have direct access to God as His death tore the veil of separation
- The deeds of the Nicolaitans was the beginning of the control of the church that controlled the people
- These deeds are very evident today in many religious organizations
- One of the good things this early church had was that they hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans
- Jesus say that He hates these deeds, the forced rule, also

24 ☐ **REVELATION 2:7**

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

- Here is the first incident we have of overcoming
- Here also is one of the promises to overcomers; to eat of the tree of life
- It is with these promises that we begin the process of redemption
- These promises are not to the church as a whole but rather to the individuals in the church who are overcomers
- To be an overcomer is to overcome in those particular things in which the church failed