LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS Rev. 2:1-7

Intro. The letter was addressed "to the 'angel' (messenger-minister) of the church in Ephesus." To be communicated by him to the congregation. (cf. 1:20). Ephesus greatly favored. Two apostolic letters. No other church so favored. Great city.

Though written by the hand of John, the letter was dictated by the Lord Jesus. A twofold dis-

cription

A. "Holdeth the seven stars in his right hand." The stars are the angels or messengers of the church. (1:20). This a comforting thought to them that are true to him because:

1. (Jno. 10:27-28) No one takes out of his

hand.

2. (Acts 7). He is with them. If killed, to glory go.

3. (Matt. 10:30). Hairs numbered. Note spar-

rows fall.

4. (Zech. 11:17a, I Cor. 9:16b). Terror to unfaithful minister.

B. "Walketh in the midst." etc. (1:20) He is present in the churches to (a) Inspect (b) Judge (c) Encourage. This a sobering thought and should have profound effect on all hearers. C. Having introduced the Lord as the speaker, we directed to a consideration of his message.

First, the language of ... I Commendation: "I know thy works" Only one who really knows. Nothing escapes his notice. ("Thou Lord which knowest the hearts of all men. . Acts 1: 24). (Heb. 4:12-13). He knows the good; he knows the bad and is abundantly able to reward or punish accordingly. We should therefore learn to pray as did David: (cf Ps. 139:23-24). He knows all, but points out the good first (difference between constructive and destructive critique). He points out the good first. He seems more intent on finding good than evil. What was right with the church:

A. Conduct. (1) Works, (Phil. 2:12) life in general (2) Labor, intense toil under difficulty and hardship. (3) Patience, steadfastness in the truth under very trying circumstances - unrelenting. (cf. v.3) (I Cor. 15:58) B. Discipline. Note: contrast with I Cor. rebuke for Lack of discipline. They set themselves against...

1. "Them which are evil". Patience will bear with a "weak" brother (Rom. 15:1), but not a false one. (II Thess. 3:6). 2. "Tried them" ("apostles") false teachers

warmed about in (Acts 20:28-30). 30 yrs. prior.

To be communicated by his the companies. To be communicated by his to the companies on the companies. Two apestelic letters. No other charch so tayored. Greet Chough waitten by the bard of John. the lotter 1. (Jno. 10:27-28) No one takes out of his 2. (Kots 7). He is with the. It willed, to - taga ejel .beledmin anlah .(0:01 .tata) . : present in the churches to (e) Inspect (b) Judge (c) Encourage. This a sobering thought and sometimed effect on all hearters. First, the language of ...
I Contendation: "# know thy volks" Only one who really inews. Lothing economics to the second considering the second considering the second considering and second considering the second date post of the proposably told to provide a public to the post of public to the post of the post of the providence of e. Conduct (1) notes. (thil. 2:12) life in remarks. (thil. 2:12) life in remarks. (thil. 2:12) life in remarks. (4) lemon, interface to the suitable in the roote under the remarks of remarks. (us. v.5) (1 Cot. 15:56) The Disconness of the contract of the I Cor. rebute 1. "Then which are cvil". Patience will been l. "Then which a "week" brother (Rom. 15:1). our hot with a "week" brother. 2:0.

aw elpe one. (II These. 2:0.

E. "Dried boom" ("steroles") felle teacher a remain in (Acts 2:28-35). Our se. or any sermed about in (Acts 2:28-35).

3. "Hatest the deeds of the N." (v. 6). Probably taught Christian liberty gave liscence. (viz. Fornication & Idolatry) (Jude 4, Rom. 6:1)

C. Doctrine was pure, indicated by the discipline against the evil and false. Doctrine must be pure. (Tit. 2:1, Matt. 15:9) But is spite of all this good, something was wrong - there was a fly in the ointment "nevertheless"...

II Condemnation. "Somewhat against thee." Brings only one charge but it is serious - heart disease. "One-things" can be fatal (Jas. 2:10-11 - i.e. sin against or set aside one thing God commands) They hated what God hated but didn't love what God loved.

A. "First love." Figure of conjugal love. First enthusiastic devotion of church to the Lord. (Jer. 2:2) (II Cor. 11:2b)

- 1. (I Cor. 13:1-3) Must have 2. (I Jno. 5:3, II Jno. 6, 8). Manifest in deeds.
- 3. Keeping pure in doctrine, but warmth waned - it had not turned to hate. 4. Difficult to hold high level.
- B. What caused waning love? 1. Time

2. Conflict with the evil in others turns attention away from dangers in self (Gal. 6:1)

3. Attchment to the world. (I Jno. 2:15-17, Jas. 4:4, Lk. 8:14, II Tim. 4:10) To love world does not necessarily mean to love things inherently evil, but a turn of attention to (a) pleasure (b) business (c) family (d) pleasing self. (Lk. 14:26)

4. Pressure: (a) inside (I Cor. 5:6) (b) Out. (Matt. 24:12) Love to grow cold, is to let spiritual life die and corresponding inheritance slip away.

III Exhortation to repent: To revive fading love they were called on to do three things:

A. "Remember", good of a better past. (Ps. 137:1, Lk. 15:17-18a)

B. "Repent". Change of will, mind, purpose. You have failed at the 1st command. Will Repentalone save? C. "Do first works" They were working, but deeds not from deep within. Works alone profitless (cf. Gal. 5:6) (Matt. 7:21-23). "Whence thou art fallen" (Eph. 1:15-16) The way to regain this warmth of affection warmth of affection, is not by working up a transient frenzy, nor by theorizing about it, but my patiently doing ones every duty - and love while doing.

. "Hatert and deems of the m." (v. 6).

Leelabay tagelit childshier liberty maye liecence. (via Féthicettions lidelatry) (Jude A. Rom. 6:1)

C. Dochrine was pare, indicated by the discipline actine was pare, indicated by the discipline actine the evil and rile. Doctrine must
be pure. (Tit. 2:1, Mart. 15:9) But is suite
all this good. Moment "neverthelens"..

a L.v in the Distant "neverthelens"..

If Consequention "Limether desinat time." heart disease.

only one charge but it is retlous - heart disease.

''no-things" can be lated ('ss! 2:10-11 - 1.0.

They hated upst one thins God commands)

listed upst of hated but didn't love what God
loved. A. "First love." Figure of conjugations. First enthusing the devotion of church to the Lord. (Jer. 2:2) (II Cor. 11:20)

1: (I Cor. 19:1-5) that have.

2: (I due. 5:5, II who. 6, 8). hanifest in . Keeping pure in doctrine, but warmth .esed of legislation bed it - benew 4. Difficult to bold him level. amint area for all live out attact theo . 1 3. Autohacut to the world. (I dno. 2:15-17.
3. Autohacut to the world. (I dno. 2:15-17.
3. Autohacut to c:14. II Tim. 4:10) To love
world does not necessarily mean to love
obline inderonal evil, out a tune of attentier to (n) planage (t) breiness (s) realing
(a) planage (a) (i). 14:30)
1. Planage: (a) inside (I Cor. 3:5) (b) dro.
(mait. 24:12) love to grow celd. is to let
attent attent and content of the end

D. Ephesus was pure in discipline, doctrine, and deeds but this not enough.

IV. Warning: "Will remove thy candlestick". Threatened with extinction. No idle threat because that church soon disappeared. No church long exists.

ened with extinction. No idle threat because that church soon disappeared. No church long exists without love. They worshipped but not because of

intense love for Him. The dead-line:

A. Lord is longsuffering, and bears with sins a while. If this were not true, none would be saved. (Rom. 3:23). But there is a dead-line beyond which, if we dare go, he will but us off.

B. When a church has attention called to evil and then will not do anything about it, the day of doom is certain.

C. (Prov. 1:28, 29:1)

V. Encouragement: (v. 7) To do two things
A. Hear the words of the Spirit. The heart
that opens to Gods word will be filled with
God's blessing.

B. Overcome the world (Rom. 12:2) the tree of life is promised, the victor. It was forfieted in Eden when man became disobedient. It is regained by warfare (i.e. life of obedience). It gives wonderful nourishment...eternal life. C. (II Pet. 1:4, II Cor. 7:1) Promises—

You may tread upon the lush green carpets of paradise, drink the life giving stream, eat of the eternal tree and converse on intimate

terms with Jehowah God.

eauil . Laimeelbaac dis campus like . Vi . ened with extinction. We idle threst because that church soon disamperred. No church long extats NED 3-26-67 Reel 31 It dives wonderful mourisheemt ... eternal lire. 0. (II Pet. I: 4, II Cor. 0) i secul of the car even car even of paradise, drink the life diving acresm, ear