

Letters to the 7 churches - David Jeremiah's 2nd CD

This is about the first church of Ephesus. Shelbia thinks this was a church in modern Turkey. You will find that everyone of the 7 churches represent something that is happening in churches today; as well as in churches that have been down through the ages.

Revelation is a book of mysterious signs and wonders. It contains a collection of 7 letters from Jesus, authored by John. Letters were to go to all 7 churches. They are brief and straight to the point. The early Christian churches are the recipients. There's a prophetic anticipation of the letters. They are prophetic because Christ's words speak to all the churches through all the ages. The 7 churches represent 7 ages of history in the church. All 7 letters have a description of Christ. The great value of these letters is that it identifies the kind of Christians that show up in church of every age. These letters will remind us of people and places that manifest.

Apocolupous - means its a revelation of Jesus Christ. We learn much about Christ in these letters.

Chapter 2 (Rev 1:19- John was instructed to 'Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this'.)

Rev 2:1 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The one who holds 'the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks 'among the seven golden lampstands. The destination of the letter - to the angel of the church of Ephesus. (The messenger of the church). Yes, every church has an angel - its the pastor or elder from the church, who declares the word of God.

Ephesus was an inland city 3 miles from the sea, but the broad mouth of the Cayster River allowed access and provided the greatest harbor in Asia Minor. Four great trade roads went thru Ephesus; therefore, it is known as the gateway to Asia. It was the center of the worship of Artemis (Greek), or Diana (Roman), whose temple was one t\of the Wonders of the Ancient World.

The Church of Ephesus: was an early church recorded in Acts. Look at each letter in their primary association. The letter was written to this city. Jesus Christ describes himself in the letter.

Ephesus was a cosmopolitan, cultural city. It was the most prominent city. Ephesians was written in Ephesus. Filled with rich and poor people. The home to the Temple of Diana (one of the 7 wonders of the world). It was the temple of immorality. Prostitution was part of the religious practice of the city. Paul established the church of Ephesus on his second journey. He spent 3 years there. Paul had established Timothy as the pastor of the church. John the apostle became the head of the church in Ephesus following Timothy's pastorship. John was taken captive there and sent to Patmos. John wrote to church's that are in existence at the time, while he's in exile on Patmos.

**Rev 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, 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 laboured, and hast not fainted.**

The eyes of fire (Rev 1) is where God is searching the churches to see where they are. The Lord is searching the churches and the heart of the church to see what they really are. Far more significant is the opinion of Jesus Christ. What Christ thinks of the church is something no professing Christian can ignore. We don't have to wonder what Jesus thinks cause he tells us what he thinks. These are 7 messages for today's believers.

This is a pretty good dossier for a church:

The Church of Ephesus was stirred up - they were a working church. Whenever you find a clear message of grace, talk clearly without apology. You will find a clear church. They understand they have been saved for good works.

The Church of Ephesus was a dynamic church;

Dedicated - I know your works; you cannot be saved by good works. Once saved, its alright to do good works.

Determined – persevered and on fire for God;

Disciplined - can't bear evil;


Patient - when it came to suffering, but not when it came to sinning;

Discerning - you've tested those who said they were apostles and were

not; and found them to be liars. (Some people came to the Ephesus church, and used the apostles name to get entrance into the church of Ephesus. People saw them for what they were and they were not allowed in the church.)

Paul had warned them this would happen. He said, I know this, that after my departure, savage wolves will come into the church. The people sorted it out and said, no, not here.

We should all be this way. They were discerning.

While Ephesus was (as described above), it was a declining church. Rev 2:4 - I have this against you because you have left your first love. Outwardly, they were a model church, but Jesus recognized they had heart trouble. Their first flush of ecstasy passed. They had been in love with him but had fallen out of love with him. It took Ephesus less than 30 years to fall out of love with the Lord. They had experienced a slow drift in the wrong direction. Ephesus at one time was so in love with Jesus, they couldn't go anywhere without it showing.  When they prayed at lunch, they prayed long prayers...When first baptized, people bring an enthusiasm and excitement of God. Jesus said, you no longer love me as you did in the first. He said he has something against the church. The church should tremble and fall on its knees.

All who dwelt in Asia heard the word of God - they were on fire for God. This is the kind of patience that endures but maintains a forward motion.

There was fierce opposition in this area. Christians got better as things got tougher. This church was filled with people that were tough!

There were other letters written to real cities in real countries. These were churches like our church. John had visited some of them and he knew what was going on in them. John spoke to each church about the realities of their congregation. Each letter begins with I know your works; and each has a promise for those that overcome. Each letter has to be read in its own context.

There's a personal application to the letter - it identifies the kind of Christian who shows up in church in every age. The letters will remind us about churches we know.

Problems faced by our modern churches could be solved by reading the information to the 7 churches. Every church found out something about the other churches. All 7 churches got to read the letters that were written to each church.

The Church of Laodecia - was Luke warm and was disgusting to God. This is the one that will be on the earth when Jesus comes back to get us.

The body of the 7 letters is a diagnosis of each church. "I know your work, labor and patience, that you cannot bear those that are evil. You have tested those that say they are disciples, but are not."

Jesus is the authoritative power in the midst of them. Where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, there I am. The Lord is in the midst of all the churches today, making his presence known. He knows if we are committed to the glory of Christ.

Charles's Spurgeon - pray to God to send a few men with grit in them. Those who know when something is right, they will not turn away. They stand true to their master, the more they are thrust into the fire, the more they come; the more they are trodden upon, they will become more. Please send some men with what Americans call grit. Men who will stand true to what they know is right.

Did you know it is possible to be in ministry and not even have a relationship with Jesus?

A New believer - fervent, openly displays love for the Lord Jesus.

G Campbell Morgan says, first love is defined in analysis. It's seen in poetry, worships in abandonment and is the crowning conscious of life.

People can be as straight as a gun barrel, but as empty as a gun barrel.

Externally, the Ephesus church was commendable, but there was an area that was lacking - the gaze of Jesus found that they have turned their relationship with Christ into a religion. It's not a church unless it is a loving church.

Their relationship with Christ had become a religion. It's not a living church unless it's a loving church!

Ephesians 6:24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

What about us? What about our church? Do we love people he's instructed us to love?

First love just loves! It cares only about one thing.

What do you do if you've fallen out of love with the Lord?

Revelation 2:5 Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place – unless you repent.

Restoration begins with remembering. Meditating what your relationship with Christ was when you were first saved. How did you bring people to church with you? Lead someone to Christ or see someone come forward in service and they got saved. You had influence in someone's life.

God said it - I believe it and that's all there is to it.

A useful counter is to go back in through to the first days. Keep on remembering what it was like when you first came to know Jesus Christ.

We will remember....I still remember the day he saved me and I will never be the same! Do you remember the day he saved you? The sense of relief that you were no longer guilty before a righteous God. Remember and then you need to repent!

Remember where you've fallen from and repent.

Turn back toward the Lord Jesus!

Repentance is completely to turn one's back on all one's known sin. Jesus doesn't urge the Ephesians to feel bad about their sin, but to act on their sin.

If you want to get back to the first love experience, you REPENT. Quit doing it - get away from it!

The last one is repeat. Go back and do the first works. The way you get back to the way it was is that you go back and do the first works!

What does that mean? Did you read your Bible? Did you come to church all excited? IN order to restore where you were, you have to go back and do what you did. You start doing the things you use to do!

All of a sudden you'll discover again what its like to serve God with all your heart!

This is a good formula for a marriage that's in trouble. You should remember what it use to be like! You should repent that you let it get where it is now; and then you repeat. All of a sudden you will realize that you really love your spouse.

Christ gave a sober warning: 2:5 - if you don't get back to loving Jesus like you should, he would remove their candlestick (influence) and your outreach will be gone.

Repent- changing your mind and going in the opposite direction. This is a choice and an act of will. You turn your back on all known sin.

It is not what they feel about them as much as what they do to them.

What do you do if you want to get back to the first love experience? Repent!!! Stop doing it!!!

Repeat - go back and do the first works. The way you get back to the way it was is to go back and do the first works. What does this mean? What was it like for you as a new Christian?

Read your Bible?

Excited to go to church!

You start doing the things you used to do when you were first saved....you remember what it was like to be in love with Jesus.

Most of you could make a list of first things.

This is also a good thing to do for a troubled marriage. You should repent....and then repeat the things you used to do. Let's act like we used to act when we were really in love!

Christ concludes this with a sober warning - if you do not get back to loving me - your candle stick (influence) will be snuffed out and your influence will be gone.

God has given us a tremendous opportunity to minister to the world. If we fail to love God, the church will not stand.

I was on my way to the savior and I ran into serving and got into serving and never got into the savior!

If you're a Christian, you have to love the one you talk about. If you just push things out and don't have a love for Jesus, it won't last very long. You can't sustain this for very long without his love.

G. Campbell Morgan - friend had a Little daughter whom he loved dearly. They were great friends. Always found an experience of love and joy. The daughter began to excuse herself from his company. He grieved about it and couldn't understand it. One day his birthday came and she came into his room with smiles on her face. She told him she had a present for him. She had made him a beautiful pair of shoes. They were exquisite and he said these are really wonderful. Did you buy these for me? No, I made them for you. Is this what you've been doing the past 3 months? Yes, it is. He thought for a while then said, Next time, buy the slippers and let me have you all the days....I would rather have my child than anything you could eve make for me.

This story is weighted for spiritual value. We are so busy in the Lord, we can't love him. Sometimes he would say, I know your works, labor and patience, but I miss your love. We can't allow the stuff we are going to do, get in the way of being with the one we love.

I trust that in my own life, I will not forget that the Lord God loves me....and to give this love back to him. Expressing your worship, reading the Bible, talking with him. When you have this type of relationship with the Lord, you will have a wonderful relationship with the lord.

Our first formula for marriage too - remember, repent and repeat.

We should care about the doctrine of our church and not allow false discord to come into the church.

1 John 3:23 - This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

Ecobod must be written for the love departed. Ephesus is a ruin. The great golden lamp stand has been removed. There is no church. God has given us an incredible opportunity to influence the world for Jesus Christ. If we quit loving the Lord Jesus Christ, people will come to find the church and it will not be here.

If you get into serving instead of being on your way to Christ, you will not ever get to Christ!

You have to have a love for the Lord Jesus in your heart! You can't sustain a ministry on the outward effort of your service.

I trust in my own life that the Lord God of heaven loves me with an everlasting love and the best thing you can give him is to first love him and get to know him and worship him.

When you have this kind of love relationship with the Lord, he will allow you to have his blessings upon you.

Shelbia is 100% convinced that we are in the highest level of spiritual warfare right now. Principalities and spiritual wickedness in high places. We can't give the devil anything. we have to keep our guard up and our armor on; and the precious blood of Jesus over us, our families and our possessions, finances over everything. The devil is after us.

Sharon says, The beginning of the strength of a church, starts with the pastor - who is the angel of the church.

BUSY = "being under satans yoke"

FOCUS - then look away, and Focus then look away.....like David Jeremiah's February letter.

Retha - Put a glove on - this is your life with Jesus. You have control. Take your fingers out of the glove and make a fist. The glove fingers are now floppy. This is your life without God. You can't grab anything.

Shelbia says - When you ask God to anoint you, he will multiply your efforts. He will multiply your time and efforts. He helps you! You will also have energy to do this.

We have to stay 1/2 jump ahead of satan!

Retha likes 'This Present Darkness' - Frank Peretti wrote it. Demons are in human form as thugs. Angels are in human form, protecting Christians. The second book, 'Piercing the Darkness' - Frank Peretti. This makes you more aware of the spiritual battles.

We are always being protected, but satan is always around trying to devour us. In scripture, God let the people see the spiritual realm around us.

The thing about spiritual darkness is very serious. There is a present darkness, but the light will come through. God will prevail!

Song - We will remember - Tommy Walker
