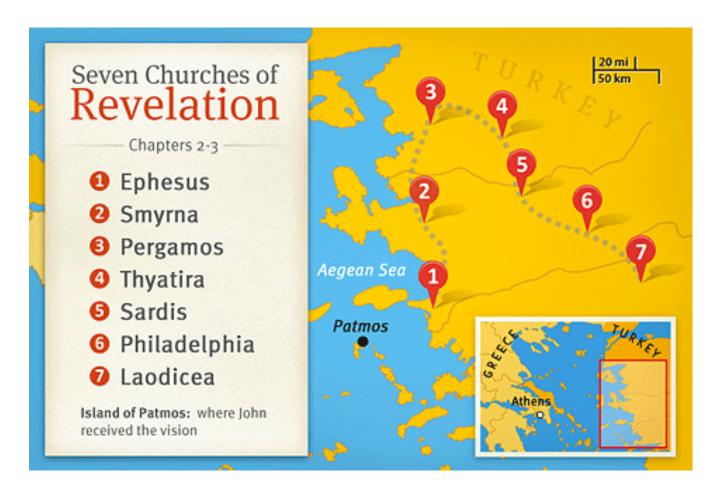


DISCIPLESHIP UNIVERSITY AT FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

PROP 4500: REVELATION

Part III: Message to Ephesus - Love

THE CHURCHES OF ASIA



What do the "seven lampstands" represent?

What do the "seven stars" represent?

The messages to the seven churches in Revelation all follow a general pattern: characteristic of Christ, commendation, condemnation, correction, consequence, and a word to those who conquer.

BACKGROUND: CITY OF EPHESUS

• Ephesus was a m	ajor Roman city, serving as both a center of commerce and as
the capital of the	Roman province of Asia. By AD 100, the population is
estimated to have	e been between 400,000 and 500,000. It was considered to be
	mportant city in the Roman Empire, next to Rome itself.
	ne to the temple of, one
of the Seven Won	ders of the World. This deity was the goddess of the hunt, as , childbirth, and the wilderness.
•	o a major center for
<u>-</u>	es existed in the city for Julius Caesar, Trajan, Hadrian, and
	vas emperor at the time of the writing of Revelation, assuming
the AD 95 dating).
 Ephesus had a m 	assive amphitheater that could seat
	people, and was central in the riot of Acts
19.	
• Ephesus was hon	ne to the Library of,
completed in the	early AD 100s in honor of the Roman senator from that area.
It housed 12,000	scrolls as well as the burial chamber of the senator.
• The church at Ep	hesus has a distinctive lineage of pastor/elders:
 and	
	Ephesus was kind of a big deal.
CHARACTERISTIC OF	CHRIST
Jesus	the seven stars in His right hand and
	among the seven golden lampstands (v.1).

• What strikes you about this description of Christ?

COMMENDATION
Jesus offers three commendations to the church at Ephesus:
• Their good works (v. 2; cf. Ephesians 2:8-10)
 Why would Christ commend the church for this?
• Their endurance (v. 2, 3; cf. Acts 19)
 How might the persecution endured by the Ephesians have manifested itself?
 How might we be likewise prepared for such persecution today, so that we might not grow weary from it?

Their doctrinal purity (v. 2, 6; cf. Acts 20:29-31)		
0	How would the Ephesians have tested those teachers and self-styled "apostles" who came to them?	
0	How would the Ephesians have dealt with those who were "evil", living immoral lives and teaching false doctrines from within the church?	
0	How does this compare with the church today?	

CONDEMNATION

Based on the commendations given by Christ, the church at Ephesus sounds like a pretty good church, one that we might want to be part of if we were looking for a church home. But Christ says that He holds one thing against them, and it's of no small consequence.

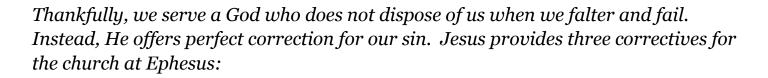
•	Aband	loned t	he loi	ve they	had a	ıt first (v. 4)	1

0	What do you think Jesus meant by the "love they had at first" (cf
	Ephesians 6:24)?

o When we lose our love, of what value is our works (cf. I Corinthians 13)?

• How does this happen? How does a church lose or abandon its love?

CORRECTION



• Remember (v. 5; cf. II Corinthians 7:10-11):

• *Repent (v. 5):*

• *Resume (v. 5):*

CONSEQUENCE

Jesus said that if the Ephesian church would not repent, He would come and their lampstand (v. 5).
• Does this remain a consequence for a local church today?
• Are local churches guaranteed perpetual existence? Why or why not?
A WORD TO THOSE WHO CONQUER • What is the objective of spiritual warfare (cf. Romans 8:37)?
 Jesus promises something to those who conquer at the end of each message to the churches. Here, Jesus promises that those who conquer the conflict with evi will eat from the of What imagery does this bring to your
mind (cf. Genesis 2:9; Revelation 22:1-2)?
What does this reward mean?