



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 major 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 been between 400,000 and 500,000. It was considered to be the second most important city in the Roman Empire, next to Rome itself.*
- *Ephesus was home to the temple of _____, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. This deity was the goddess of the hunt, as well as of virgins, childbirth, and the wilderness.*
- *Ephesus was also a major center for _____ worship. Temples existed in the city for Julius Caesar, Trajan, Hadrian, and Domitian (who was emperor at the time of the writing of Revelation, assuming the AD 95 dating).*
- *Ephesus had a massive amphitheater that could seat _____ people, and was central in the riot of Acts 19.*
- *Ephesus was home 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 Ephesus has a distinctive lineage of pastor/elders: _____, _____, and _____.*
- *In other words, 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)*
 - *How would the Ephesians have tested those teachers and self-styled “apostles” who came to them?*

 - *How would the Ephesians have dealt with those who were “evil”, living immoral lives and teaching false doctrines from within the church?*

 - *How does this compare with the church today?*

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 evil 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?*