

LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Revelation 2: 1-7

THEME: Jesus is coming, and judgment is coming; *this is certain!*

Our world is being prepared for the appearance of antichrist

Globalism is in full swing; a one world government is the goal

Globalists believe this is the only way to save "*Mother Earth*"

The globalist's values and influence *must* replace the family's values and influence

Their goal: to make the family compliant globalists, dependent on the government god, *not the true God!*

What happened in America to foster this change?

The **Church abandoned** its role as the moral compass for society

The **Church blended** with society and became like the world

The cultural decline can be directly related to the Church *losing its influence in the culture!*

The **True Church**, the **Remnant Church**, stands *against* this one world push and can expect opposition from the world and its governments -

We are the problem!

God is using the Book of Revelation to give the **Remnant Church** a heads up on what is coming!

Your survival tool: Know that the *Glorified, All Powerful Jesus* is with you!!

Verse 1: DESTINATION

The destination is the local leader and the congregation - *God wants His people to know!!*

Ephesus was a great commercial city, filled with false gods and sensual unrighteousness

Sounds like America today

In a society of moral pollution, the True Church must know that Jesus walks in your midst!

What is Jesus saying to the True Church? *I am your strength, lean on me!*

Verse 2 - 3 and 6: COMENDATION (things done well)

- 1) "*Your work, your labor, your patience*" - they worked hard, were not lazy or apathetic
- 2) "*You cannot bear those who are evil*" - they called sin, sin, and wrong, wrong, *no compromise!*
- 3) "*You have tested those who say they are apostles and are not*" - they called out the false teachers and named names. They were not politically correct! The Remnant Church must know who the charlatans are, and who the Scripture twisters are.
- 4) "*You have persevered, have not become weary*" - A Remnant Church quality: no matter the opposition, a "*never quit attitude*" - **FINISH YOUR RACE!**
- 5) "*You hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate*" - Nicolaitans created a distinction between the clergy and the laity. They have a "you do as I say" attitude; power, and control is their goal.
For the Remnant Church, Christ is the head, not a person!

Verse 4: CONDEMNATION - "You have left your first love"

Left = to send away; to forsake, to leave, *to drift away!*

This Church became so immersed in the business of Church that they simply forgot Jesus

What might “drifting” look like:

- 1) **A busy life** - church, work, kids’ activities, sports, hobbies, etc. Forgetting to spend time with Jesus
- 2) **Perfunctory worship** - going through the motions but *detached from God!*
- 3) **Blending with the world** - taking on the world’s values; indoctrinated to the world
- 4) **Danger: The social media Church, replacing the True Church** - a feeling that I do not need to go through the hassle of getting ready for Church, I will just catch it later.

Important: *The Church is participatory, not observational!*

Do not take your hands off the oars and drift back to the world and its ways

Be a God pleaser, not a people pleaser!

Do not drift, do not leave your first love!!!

Verse 5: EXHORTATION - Repent

Remember: God always will welcome you with open arms; He is never condemning to one who repents!
He lavishes love on them! (*prodigal son*)

Keep your first love your number one priority, how?

Stay in the **Word**, stay in **Fellowship**, stay faithful in **Spirit-led prayer** - **John 15: 5**

In this era of unprecedented deception, it is imperative that you:

Remember your First Love, stay close to your First Love!

This will require **time** with your first love - love always requires *a time commitment!*

Verse 7: PROMISE TO OVERCOMERS

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches” - **LISTEN!!**

The promise is to whom? *Overcomers!! VICTORS!!*

What are overcomers promised?

- Eat of the *“Tree of Life”* - **Revelation 22: 2**

The *“Tree of Life”* is a symbol of eternal life and continual blessings, abundance, and variety

- Forever blessings! - Forever abundance!! - Forever Variety!!!

THIS IS A WONDERFUL PROMISE - ***FROM THE PROMISE KEEPER!!***

CLOSING: LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Please know that our techno-connected world has fostered an abandoning of the **True God** for the gods of this world
Our educational system, the government, workplace, the internet, etc., supplies people with constant information that is contrary to the **True God**

The result: Indoctrination - evil is good and good is evil - **Isaiah 5: 20**

Many have abandoned the faith, based on web sites and media hawks, promoting anti-God information

This is not a surprise, Jesus said this would happen - **Matthew 24: 37; Luke 18: 8**

In the midst of this **techno bombardment**, how do we stay centered on the Truth?

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 – “The Shema” - *“Hear Oh Israel”* - Hear Oh Church!!

Remnant believers must be: **ALL IN** – *“Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”*

Be an overcomer - do not leave your First Love, finish your race, you are almost home!!