

Ephesus...a busy church

The Churches of Revelation – Rev 2:1-7

Revelation – Quick introduction



The Basics...

Author – John (the disciple) around AD95

Location – Patmos (30 miles from Turkey)

Genre

- A Revelation – *apokalypsis*
- A Prophecy
- A Letter

Relevance – the ‘so what question!’

- We live in a secular world
- We need a correct perspective

Revelation 1:9-20

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

¹⁹ "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 2:1-7

¹ “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.

² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶ But you have this in your favour: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

First things first

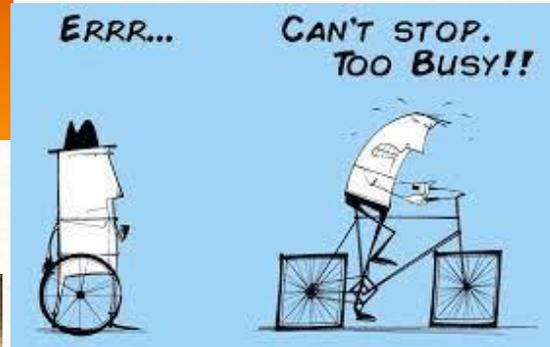


✝
KEEP
CALM
AND
PUT JESUS
FIRST

The first thing...

- Jesus loves YOU !
- What's first in your life right now?

Four steps...



Four things to consider...

1. LISTEN to Jesus
2. Don't hide behind a BUSY LIFE
3. Acknowledge that OUR FIRST LOVE is Jesus
4. Take STEPS to return to our first love
 - Remember
 - Repent
 - Repeat

Questions for YOU...



Questions...

1. **Assess** - How am I doing putting Jesus first?
2. **Re-orientate** – What am I going to change?
3. **Engage** –
 - What do I need to remember?
 - What do I need to repent?
 - What do I need to repeat?