

The Church in Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7

📖 Revelation 2:1 (NIV84) “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.”

📖 Revelation 1:20 (NIV84) “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.”

Who are the “angels”?

1. A heavenly guardian of the church.
2. A human leader in the church.
3. A personification of the church itself.
4. A letter carrier who delivered it to the church.

The things they did right.

📖 Revelation 2:2–3 (NIV84) “I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, 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.”

1. They worked hard. (2a)
2. They were doctrinally accurate. (2c)
3. They persevered and endured. (2, 3)
4. They didn't tolerate wickedness. (2b, 6)

📖 Revelation 2:2b, 6 (NIV84) “...I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false... ⁶ But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

The thing they did wrong.

📖 Revelation 2:4 (NIV84) “Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.”

📖 Ephesians 6:24 (NIV84) “Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.”

The things they were told to do.

📖 Revelation 2:5a (NIV84) “Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.”

1. Remember the height from which they fell.
2. Repent of their sin.
3. Return to doing the things they used to do.

📖 Revelation 2:5b (NIV84) “If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.”

📖 Revelation 2:7 (NIV84) “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

Digging Deeper: Does your walk with God include the things that Ephesus



was doing right? Have you done the one thing that they did wrong?

What is your motivation? Are you doing things for God but not with God? Can you honestly say that you love Jesus with the same fervor that you once did? Have you lost your love for the Lamb? Do you need to remember, repent, and return to loving Him?