

June 11, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Tim McCardel

Message Series: The 7 Churches of Revelation: Times of Fire”

Today’s Message: Ephesus: The Forgetful Church

Revelation 1:17-20

Notice: (v.20) *“The 7 Stars.... In My Right Hand”* - these “7 messengers” (GK: aggelos) literally are the churches pastors (most likely) and the “7 golden lampstands” are the 7 churches.

Revelation 2:1-7

1. What They Did Right

Revelation 2:2, 3

⇒ They had solid Bible teaching, they exposed false teachers, and they were persevering and enduring thru troubled, hard times.

Reality: They lived in a hostile culture, the main commercial center of Asia Minor, and was the home to the goddess and temple of Artemis (GK) or Diana (Roman).

Psalm 97:10 *“You that love the Lord hate evil.”*

Amazingly: In this Very Dark place the power of the Gospel transformed an entire culture and was known as the mother church in Asia Minor.

2. What They Forgot

Revelation 2:4 Ephesians 2:1-10

Last Week: “Spirit Fullness happens when I am overwhelmed with God’s love for me and then the love overflows to all around me: A Loving Boldness to all.” ~M. L. Jones

The Sad Reality: Forsaking our first love for Christ and also in loving people happens to most Christ Followers:

- 1) We get bored and lose interest in following God and servicing Him.
- 2) We get hurt and begin to pull away from being open and real with other Followers.
- 3) We get distracted and busy - we do good things but quit doing the Best Things: Loving God and Serving People.

Ephesians 5:1, 2

3. Winning This War

Revelation 2:5

- 1) **“Consider”** (Remember) Hebrews 3:12, 13
- 2) Repent
- 3) Return (to First Things)

This Week: Consider Psalm 51

Revelation 2:5, 7 *“To him who overcomes... leaving first love...”*

Sadly: Ottoman Empire conquers Ephesus in 1425 and was completely abandoned...