

LETTERS

TO SEVEN CHURCHES



EPHESUS: LOST LOVE

“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ‘I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.’””

If Jesus came to your church today, what would He say? If your church were included in the Pastoral letters of Jesus to the seven churches, what would He say to it?

JESUS AMONG THE CANDLESTICKS

The Seven Candlesticks each represent one of the seven _____.

The fire on each candle is a reminder that Jesus is the _____ of the world.

The number 7 in Scripture is the number of _____, _____, and _____.

EPHESUS

- ◆ Population: _____
- ◆ Famous for the Temple of _____, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world.
- ◆ The grand theater of Ephesus would seat _____ people. It was in this theater that a riot would rise against Paul, and the people changed, "Great is Artemis of Ephesus!"
- ◆ The church in Ephesus was started by _____ and _____, who were tent makers. Besides Paul, the Apostle _____ was also a pastor there.



THE MESSAGE TO EPHESUS:

COMMENDATION: _____ the _____;
and _____ the works of the _____.

NOTE: The Nicolaitans were people who claimed to be Christians, but considered it a matter of indifference to do things that were otherwise forbidden by the commandments. So in other words, Sabbath, adultery, no big deal.

CONDEMNATION: You left your _____.

NOTE: Forgetting the WHO often leads to forgetting the WHY. If the "why" ever becomes the reason, it soon won't matter "who" the who is. If it's about doctrines first, then Jesus won't matter.

The five "unique" doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

NOTE: It's not that other churches don't have one, two, or even three of these doctrines in common, what makes the Adventist Church unique is that we alone have all five of these doctrines. But these 5 doctrines are first and foremost about a relationship with Jesus.

COUNSEL: _____, _____, _____.

CHALLENGE: I will _____ your _____.

COMPENSATION: You may eat of the _____ of _____.