

The Letters...

Lent

**From Ash Wed. to the Saturday before Easter Sunday
Except Sundays**

40 Days - Reflect, Repent, Remember...

More time spent with God

The Letters...

To Seven Churches

Revelation 1:1-2, 4a

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place;

he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. ...

4a John to the seven churches that are in Asia...

The Letters to Seven Churches in Asia Minor (Modern Turkey)

Revelation 2-3



1. Ephesus

2. Smyrna

3. Pergamum

4. Thyatira

5. Sardis

6. Philadelphia

7. Laodicea

Revelation 2:1-7

To the angel (or Messenger) of the church in Ephesus

From: who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands (Jesus)

Through John at Patmos (Revelation 1:9)

About Ephesus:

- * One of greatest seaport
- * 3 major roads to Babylon via Laodicea, Smyrna, and Meander Valley
- * The worshiping center for Diana (Romans), also called Artemis (in Ephesus - goddess of fertility), one of the 7 wonders of the world





This model of the Temple of Artemis, at Miniaturk Park, Istanbul, Turkey, attempts to recreate the probable appearance of the third temple. By Zee Prime at cs.wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6347027>



Ephesus Celcus Library remains – by Logga Wiggler <https://www.cruisetraveller.com.au/blog/ephesus-turkey-unesco-sites-of-the-world/>

Church of Ephesus:

- * Paul visited this church and stayed 3 years to disciple - a base to spread the good news of Jesus Christ
- * Ephesians: The letter written by Paul to believers in Ephesus
- * Discipled by Paul, Aquila and Priscilla, Apollos, Timothy, Tychicus, John
- * 1st church out of seven mentioned in Revelation

What did the church of Ephesus do right?

- * Hard work and Perseverance (v.2)**
- * Didn't tolerate wicked people (v.2)**
- * Tested those who claim to be apostles and have found them false (v.2)**
- * Endured patiently and bearing up for the sake of the name of Jesus Christ, and did not grow weary. (v.3)**
- * Rejected Nicolaitans (v. 6)**

What was missing?

They have abandoned the love they had at first.

(Rev. 2:4)

What was Jesus asking them to do? (v.5)

- 1. Remember from what you have fallen;**
- 2. Repent**
- 3. Do the works you did at first.**

And then consequences:

**If not, I will come to you and remove your
lampstand from its place, unless you repent.**

(Rev 2:5)

What does it mean to remove the lampstand?

“fail at this point is to fail exceedingly—if not altogether”...

**(Gorden D. Fee *“Revelations”*
New Covenant Commentary Series 2011)**

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- 3. Do the works you did at first.**

Restore Your First Love!

**Do you remember
when you loved Jesus for the first time?**

How do we lose that first love?

- 1. Not spending enough time**
- 2. Mindless Routine**
- 3. Losing focus and substituting with something or someone else**

How about us?

To restore our first love, we must remember!!

When we forget our first love for Christ,

Christianity shifts from a relationship to just a religion.

Let us restore our relationship with Christ!

To Restore our First Love...

- 1. Recognize and Repent**
- 2. Make a conscious decision**
- 3. Discipline ourselves - Remembering why we do what we do**

Revelation 2:7

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.**

Let us restore our first love!