

## THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

Rev.2:1-7

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Ephesus a great commercial metropolis in the first century and the capital of the Roman province which was called Asia, a part of an empire known as Lydia. At one time it had a population of aprox 225,000. It had a theater that would seat about 25,000 people. (show picture)
- B. City of Idolatry - great temple of Diana, counted one of the seven wonders of the world
- C. Church there founded by Paul on second missionary journey during a brief stop, and he returned on a third journey to stay about three years
- D. Church was so influential at this time that the worshippers of Diana were afraid the whole city would be converted Acts 19:26,27
- E. Written to angel or messenger of the Church of Ephesus - not really important who messenger was - although it is thought by some scholars that the angel refers to the evangelist. However, it is the message we should be concerned about. Commendations, exhortations
- F. Spoken by one who holds 7 stars in his right hand and walks in the midst of 7 golden candlesticks, obviously Jesus our Lord. Look back at 1:20 Jesus is among the messengers and those who make up the congregations

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. THE COMMENDATIONS OF THE LORD.

- A. I know your works Heb 4:12,13
  - 1. Nothing that God doesn't know
  - 2. All things naked and open to his eyes
- B. Your labor 1Cor 15:58
  - 1. Abound in the work of the Lord
  - 2. Labor is not in vain in the Lord
- C. Your patience - perseverance 2Pet 1:5-7
  - 1. The characteristic of a man unswerved from his deliberate purpose
  - 2. Fruit borne with patience Lk 8:15
  - 3. Exercised in waiting for Christ 2Thess 3:5
- D. Can't bear those who are evil
  - 1. Abstain from evil 1Thess 5:22
  - 2. Withdraw from the disorderly 2Thess 3:6
- E. Tried false teachers
  - 1. They will come Acts 20:28-30
  - 2. Must search scriptures Acts 17:11
  - 3. Cannot accept another Gospel Gal 1:8,9

F. Borne, patience, labored in name of Christ or for his name Col 3:17

G. Had not fainted Gal 6:9

#### II. FAULT FOUND BY THE LORD

- A. Left their first love
  - 1. First love was Christ as the Bridegroom
  - 2. City was worshipper of idols
  - 3. Very easy to go back into the world
- B. How can we leave our first love?
  - 1. Lose boldness
    - a. Ashamed of the Gospel Rom 1:16
    - b. Think more of men Gal 1:10
    - c. Unlike men of the first century Acts 4:13,19,20
  - 2. Losing attention
    - a. Do we enjoy worship Jhn 4:24; Psa 122:1
    - b. Do we enjoy singing Eph 5:19
    - c. Do we enjoy God's word Matt 28:18-20
    - d. Do we enjoy being faithful Rev 2:10
  - 3. Losing faith Heb 11:6
    - a. World has just about taken over
    - b. Read from articles - America, a Christian Nation; where are you listed?
  - 4. Loving the world - If we love the world, the love of the Father is not in us 1Jhn 2:15-17

#### III. EXHORTATIONS FROM THE LORD (REMEDY)

- A. Remember from whence thou art fallen
  - 1. The zeal when first converted 2Cor 9:2
  - 2. The intense desire to serve God Col 4:12,13
- B. Repent and do the first works Lk 13:3
  - 1. Remember our attitudes then
  - 2. We can look back and see the contrast
  - 3. Peter exhorts us to remember 2Pet 1:12-15

#### IV. WARNING:

- A. I will come and remove candlestick out of its place
  - 1. Unless we repent Lk 13:3
  - 2. Our name will not be found written in the Lamb's book of life Rev 20:15
- B. He that hath an ear let him hear
  - 1. Must take heed and act upon
  - 2. Be doers and not hearers only Jas 1:22
- C. Unless we overcome we will not have right to tree of life

#### CONCLUSION:

- A. Have we left our first love?
- B. We need to take inventory of our lives to see, if we have need to repent and do the first works
- C. Has Christ ever become your first love?