

The REVELATION of JESUS CHRIST

Chapter 2:1-7

“Fall In Love All Over Again!”

> Introduction to the Seven Churches (Chapters 2 & 3 – Three observations):

#1 - Church HISTORY: Ephesus – The Apostolic Church (1st Century)

> Each of these seven churches can be framed with historical reference:

(2:1-7) Ephesus- The Apostolic Church (1st Century)

(2:8-11) *Smyrna*- The Martyr Church (A.D. 100 – A.D. 314)

(2:12-17) *Pergamum* - The Worldly Church (A.D. 314 – A.D. 590)

(2:18-29) *Thyatira*- Church of the Dark Ages, “Romanism” (A.D. 590 – 1517 & continues today)

(3:1-6) *Sardis*- The Protestant Church, “Reformation” (A.D. 1517 – A.D. 1800)

(3:7-13) *Philadelphia*- The Revived Church (A.D. 1800 to Rapture)

(3:14-22) *Laodicea*- The Apostate Church (Last Days & into the Great Tribulation)

#2 - Church CHARACTER: A message applicable to all churches (all believers) in all ages.

#3 - Church DESTINATION: Chapters 4 and 5 the church is found in Heaven, raptured before the Great Tribulation (chapters 6 – 19), then back to earth for the Millennial (1000 year) reign of Christ (chapter 20), then to the New Heavens, New Earth, New Jerusalem (chapters 21 – 22).

> Revelation Chapter 2:1-7 – The Church of EPHESUS (“Desired”)

(v1-3) Seven words of COMMENDATION:

#1 – I know your WORKS

#2 – I know your LABOR

#3 – I know your PATIENCE

#4 – I know that you CANNOT BEAR with those who are EVIL

#5 – I know that you have tested and IDENTIFIED FALSE APOSTLES

#6 – I know that you labored for MY NAME’S SAKE

#7 – I know that you have NOT BECOME WEARY

(v4-5) One word of CONDEMNATION:

- The CAUSE: *You have LEFT YOUR FIRST LOVE*

- The CURE: REMEMBER – REPENT – REPEAT:

> Back to the future: Acts 19 – Proclamation – Multiplication – Persecution

Acts Ch. 20 – Sanctification

The Epistle to the Ephesians - Destination (Heavenlies!)

(v6-7) Two words of CONSULTATION:

- Hating the deeds of the Nicolaitans

- How to overcome – 1 John 5:4-5

(*the tree of life* – Rev. 22:1-5)