

## Revelation 2:1-7

### The Letters to the Seven Churches: Ephesus

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup>I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup>You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

<sup>4</sup>Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup>Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. <sup>6</sup>But you have this in your favour: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

<sup>7</sup>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.

A spiritual OFSTED report?

Each of the letters to the seven churches follows a similar pattern

1. The recipients are named
2. There's a description of Jesus based on the vision in Revelation Chapter 1
3. There's a commendation, a complaint and a command
4. There's a call to listen to the message of the Spirit.
5. And there's a promised reward.

Ephesus gets assessed first.

Jesus highlights two key issues.

#### **1. Jesus commended them for their concern for truth**

This church was praised for three things

1. First because they worked hard.
2. Second because they rejected false teaching.
3. Third because they persevered.

And so, Jesus identified three things to comment upon. We might put it like this.

1. First, they were committed to the gospel
2. Second, they were concerned for the truth
3. Third, they continued in the faith

## 2. Jesus criticised them for their lack of devotion

So, what were they to do about it?

Jesus lays out a two fold strategy.

First, look back.

<sup>5</sup>Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.

Secondly, look forward.

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.

**Conclusion**