

# THE SEVEN LETTERS OF REVELATION

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Parisview Baptist Church

Summer 2024

## *THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF EPHEBUS*

### *REVELATION 2:1-7*

#### **I. Structure of the Letters**

- A. Instruction to John - "To the angel of the church in \_\_\_\_\_ write:"
- B. Credit to Jesus - "These are the words of..."
- C. Description of Jesus - much from Chapter 1
- D. Statement of divine knowledge about the church - "I know..."
  - i. Affirmation/commendation - for most but not all
  - ii. Accusation/condemnation - for most but not all
- E. Instructions/counsel - Jesus tells them to do something
- F. Promise to do something - most are conditional (if...then) promises
  - i. Warning
  - ii. Comfort
- G. Universal call to listen to "what the Spirit says to the churches"
- H. Promise to "the one who is victorious" or "the one who conquers"
  - i. These promises point to everlasting life in the kingdom as revealed in this book
  - ii. Victory is persevering in faith until the end
    - a. James 1:12
    - b. Galatians 6:7-9
    - c. Hebrews 12:1-2

d. Matthew 10:22

e. Matthew 24:12-13

f. Romans 2:7

g. 1 John 5:1-5

## II. The Letter to the Church in Ephesus

### A. Description of Jesus

i. What is the description?

ii. Where does that description come from?

iii. What are the stars?

iv. What are the lampstands?

v. What does this description of Jesus say about him? About his relation to the church?

### B. Statement of divine knowledge

i. What does Jesus commend about this church?

ii. What does Jesus condemn about this church?

iii. What do you think is “the love you had at first”?

### C. Instructions

i. What does Jesus tell them to do?

ii. What do you think are “the things you did at first”?

### D. Promise to do something

i. What does Jesus promise to do?

ii. What is the condition on this promise?

iii. What do you think Jesus means by “remove your lampstand from its place”?

### E. Promise to the one who is victorious

i. What is the promise?

ii. What does Jesus mean by “the right to eat from the tree of life”?

- Revelation 22:14
- Revelation 22:18-19

#### F. Questions for Reflection

- i. If you visited the church in Ephesus for long enough to get a feel for it, how do you think you would describe it in your own words?
- ii. How does it make you feel to hear Jesus say the words, “I know your deeds”?
- iii. What do you think Jesus would commend about our church?
- iv. What does it mean to be an apostle? Are there still apostles today? Are there false teachers? How do we test people who claim to have some kind of spiritual authority?
- v. When we participate in the life of the church, do we do it because we feel like we *ought* to do it, because somebody *has* to do it, because somebody *asked* us to do it, - or because of some other motivation? What does that motivation have to do with this letter?
- vi. What can we do to keep from forsaking “the love [we] had at first”? Does it have something to do with continuing to do the “things [we] did at first”? Practically speaking - what does that look like?
- vii. Read 1 John 5:1-5 again. How does our love relate to our victory?