

The Seven Churches Of Asia Minor



Ephesus



Broken Heart

Smyrna



Prison

Pergamum



Spiritually Stumbling

Thyatira



Idolatry

Sardis



Keep Watch

Philadelphia



Protection

Laodicea



Water

Cold . Lukewarm . Hot

Revelation (2:1-5)

American Standard Version

1 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, he that walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks:

The seven stars are angels who are under Christ's authority and who are sent to the churches. "**his right hand**" means great power as seen in **Isaiah 41:10**.

2 I know thy works, and thy toil and patience, and that thou canst not bear evil men, and didst try them that call themselves apostles, and they are not, and didst find them false;

The Ephesians knew their theology. They tested with the Word of God those who claimed to be Christians and were found to be wolves in sheep's clothing. The Word of God gave the Ephesians the strength to persevere through turbulent times.

3 and thou hast patience and didst bear for my name's sake, and hast not grown weary.

They were very faithful to the Lord in their time of trials instead of denying Jesus and they found strength in God's Word.

4 But I have *this* against thee, that thou didst leave thy first love.

The church had good theology, but their love for their brothers and sisters in Christ had grown cold. The church was earlier commended by Paul for that love in **Ephesians 1:15-16** which says, "**For this cause I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you, and the love which *ye show* toward all the saints, 16 cease not to give thanks for you, making mention *of you* in my prayers;**"

That tells you that to know the Bible very well is not enough in God's eyes, but must love the true believers in Christ through support like financial, emotional and anything else that one can show love. Love is displayed through action. If a person claims to be a Christian, yet denies any salvific doctrine, he/she is a false teacher. If a brother has minor differences which are not considered a salvific

issue, then we must show support. If we love our brothers and sisters, it will show that we truly love the Lord as seen in **1 John 4:20** which says, **“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen.”**

5 Remember therefore whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I come to thee, and will move thy candlestick out of its place, except thou repent.

Before the Lord brings disciplinary action, He warns us. Repentance is a vital practice for a Christian because it shows that we are aware when we fall into sin and want to fix it immediately. The longer we take to repent, the more our hearts grows cold. **“or else I come to thee, and will move thy candlestick out of its place, except thou repent”** means that if a church continues in sin without repenting, God will remove it since it’s not useful anymore to Him and scatter its members to a different one that’s obedient to Him by producing fruits, but the unrepentant church will be no more.

Revelation (2:6-10)

American Standard Version

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Nicolaitans were followers of Nicolaus¹ who was preaching a false doctrine which was a stumbling block to true believers in Jesus Christ. Not much is known about the Nicolaitans and their doctrine. In **verses 14 & 15** of the same chapter, the Nicolaitans' teachings are compared to that of Balaam's in making Christians participate in sacrificing and worship of idols. The Ephesians hated the Nicolaitans' doctrine because the church knew God’s Word very well.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches. To him that overcometh, to him will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

The phrase **“He that hath an ear, let him hear”** was a way of saying that what is

being said is very important and the hearer should listen to every detail carefully, especially when the Holy Spirit is revealing something to you from scripture. The victors are those who have put their trust and faith in Jesus Christ. True believers will reject false doctrine and hold on to the truth that's found in scripture.

8 And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These things saith the first and the last, who was dead, and lived *again*:

Here is another reference to Jesus' deity who is eternal with the phrase “**These things saith the first and the last.**”

9 I know thy tribulation, and thy poverty (but thou art rich), and the blasphemy of them that say they are Jews, and they are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Christian riches are not based on earthly material, but on the heavenly treasure. We might seem to be very poor to those on earth when it comes to material and status, but in Jesus' eyes, if we are obedient to His Word, we are very rich because we are amassing treasure in heaven for the glory of Jesus Christ. If your heart is all for yourself, then you will seek riches here on earth, but if it is for Jesus, you will be rich for Him as seen in **Matthew 6:19-21** which says, “**Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 for where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also.**” Those who profess to follow God, but instead hate and slander you are driven by Satan because the name devil in Greek means slanderer. To slander someone with pure hatred is to be like the devil.

10 Fear not the things which thou art about to suffer: behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.

All Christians are under that kind of assault from Satan. He will try to break your spirit and make you think that God has abandoned you so that you will abandon God. This is not a new strategy of Satan. We see him do the same thing with Job which can be found in **Job chapter 1 & 2**. No matter what happens, the Lord says that if we have to die for Him, then let it be because once we close our

eyes in death, it will reopen in eternity with Jesus.

1. biblestudytools.com/dictionary/nicolaitans

Revelation (2:11-15)

American Standard Version

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches. He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

These letters are to be taken very seriously by the churches because God is warning most of them before it's too late. "He that overcometh" are those who do not shrink back (**Hebrews 10:38**), but who endure through tribulation showing their genuine faith. When they die is when they will truly live, for hell will never touch them.

12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These things saith he that hath the sharp two-edged sword:

The double-edged sword refers to God's Word, a title which belongs to Jesus Christ.

13 I know where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's throne is; and thou holdest fast my name, and didst not deny my faith, even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwelleth.

The church that was in Pergamum was surrounded by pagan worship. Satan had conquered that city for himself by deceiving the people through the worship of Zeus. The church held fast to their faith in Jesus by not denying Him through persecution even though they witnessed the martyrdom of a faithful servant of the Lord named Antipas.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there some that hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication.

Not all the members of the church were truly faithful to Jesus. They have been