



CHRIST'S EVALUATION OF HIS CHURCH "Warm-Heartedness in the Church" Revelation 2:1-7

No. 1489

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The church in Ephesus had many advantages. Planted in "the metropolis of Asia," and led and taught by outstanding leaders, it had flourished. But Christ pointed out their lack of love.

I. Christ States His Credentials. v. 1

- A. Holding the stars.
- B. Moving among the lampstands.
- C. Knowing the truth.

II. Christ Pays His Compliments. vv. 2-3

- A. Energetic involvement.
 - 1. Faith that worked.
 - 2. Working 'til exhausted.
- B. Unswerving commitment.
 - 1. Persecution under Domitian.
 - 2. Problems arising from Diana.
- C. Mature discernment.
 - 1. They had been well taught. Acts 20:29-31; 1 Timothy 1:3
 - 2. They had been wide awake. v. 6
 - a. Toleration has its limits.
 - b. Testing takes its toll.
 - i. Nicolaitans: followers of Nicolas. Acts 6:5
 - ii. Nikolaos: destroyer of the people.

III. Christ Makes His Criticisms. vv. 4-5

- A. Forsaken first love.
 - 1. They had been instructed. 1 John 4:7-13
 - 2. They had been inspired – John's example.
 - 3. They had been ill-disciplined. Ephesians 5:1-7
- B. Fallen from the high ground.
 - 1. Sudden collapse?
 - 2. Slow slide?
- C. First things forgotten.

IV. Christ Issues His Commands. v. 7

- A. Remember.
- B. Repent.
- C. Return.
- D. Recognize.
 - 1. The Spirit is speaking to the churches.
 - 2. The Church can lose its effectiveness.
 - 3. The overcomers will finally triumph.