

Vision and Values: The 7 Churches of the Revelation – Ephesus

Revelation 2: 1-7

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October 14, 2012

- Introduction:
- * We forget
 - * Rev. 1: 11 – “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the 7 churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea”
 - * John was on Patmos
 - * cities 60%; rural 90% pagans – all of them
 - * Ephesus was a leading city in the world
- I. 7 Stars
- Rev. 2:1 – To the angel of the church of Ephesus write: ‘These are the words of Him who holds the 7 stars in His right hand and walks among the 7 golden lampstands.’
- Domitian was on the coins
 - Domitian was a beast
- II. Commended
- a. for their pure belief system/doctrine & discernment
 - a. recognizing false apostles
 - b. won’t tolerate wicked men
 - b. for their good work in the community
 - a. widows and orphans
 - b. Missional work
 - c. for their endurance under the most difficult of circumstances
 - a. Life was hard – half of your neighbors hated you for your beliefs
 - b. Life was hard – taxes were burdensome and confiscatory
 - c. Life was hard – your deepest value – Christ – was cause for persecution
- III. Condemned
- a. You have forsaken your first love
 - a. Love for Christ
 - b. Love for others
 - b. Cf. 1 Corinthians 13
- IV. Take Away
- a. Which of these churches . . .? Which letter could be written to me?
 - b. Believe the gospel
 - c. Truth vs. love
 - d. Early Ephesians – rooted and established in love
 - e. Late Ephesians – You have forsaken your first love