

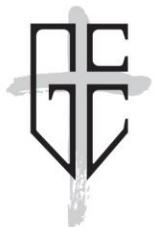
Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Revelation Letter to Church at Ephesus Rev. 2:1-7 (Part 2)

- I. Address and Identity of Christ (2:1)
- II. Commendations (2:2-3)
 - A. I know your works and toil and endurance
Triads
works/toil/endurance - not able to tolerate/tested/found
you have endurance/have endured/have not grown weary)
 - B. I know your doctrinal fidelity
They have practiced both doctrinal and moral discernment.
 - C. I know you have endurance and have endured because of my name and have not become weary

Summary: What a church! Doctrinally sound, discerning, hard-working, faithful and steadfast, steady in the face of opposition.

- III. Criticism (2:4)
 - A. But I have this against you
 - B. Your love, the first, you have departed/left
 1. This is not defection in doctrine or practice. It is altogether a matter of the heart, the affections.
 2. Some think it is love within the community, perhaps caused by zeal for doctrine.
 3. Both love to God and love to the family of God are inseparable
 4. The zeal, the warmth, the fervency of love to God and brotherly love had grown cold.
- IV. **Call to Repentance and Threat (2:5)**
 - A. Remember, therefore, from where you have fallen
 - B. And repent



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- C. And do the first works
 - D. Otherwise I shall come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent
- V. Further Commendation (2:6)**
- A. But (however) this you have ... in your favor; Christ closes with an affirmation
 - B. You hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate
- VI. Call to Hear and Promise to the Overcomers (2:7)**
- A. The one having ears, he must hear what the Spirit says to the churches
 - B. To the one who overcomes
 - 1. Persevering faith
 - 2. Remembers, repents, and does the first works
 - C. I shall give to him to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God
 - OT images (Gen. 2-3)
 - Tree of life – Ren. 22:2, 14
 - Paradise – the Garden of God, Eden
 - The end is like the beginning, but better

Application

The Church at Ephesus shows us that there can many good and healthy things in a church, and although hard working, doctrinally sound, discerning, and persevering, it can depart from its first love.

How about you?

