

THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION

2:1-7

II. The Seven Visions (MASTER BOOK OUTLINE)

A. Vision #1-Seven letters to seven churches 2:1-3:22 (MBO)

1. Each letter consists of seven parts:
 - a. A superscription to the church addressed
 - b. A _____ of the Divine Author appropriate for the particular church being addressed
 - c. A description of the church's _____ condition as seen by the Head of the Church
 - d. An _____ message of praise or censorship
 - e. Appeals in view of the special _____ of each church
 - f. A _____ to him that overcomes
 - g. An admonition to the _____ of the letter to the church
2. A popular opinion is that these churches represent the NT church down through the ages
3. However, it seems best to think of church history as containing elements that match all of the seven churches and not just one.

B. The First Letter

1. THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

- a. Ephesus **Vs 1**
 - (1) The Roman _____ of the Roman province of Asia Minor
 - (2) Ephesus was a large commercial and seaport city with many coming and going in and out of the city
 - (3) It was a strategic city for the _____ of Christianity and religious ideas that were not Christian in nature
 - (4) The church at Ephesus was _____ by the Apostle Paul and is referenced frequently in the NT
- b. Christ first lets them know He is totally _____ of them **Vs 2-3**
 - (1) *I know thy works*-activity meant to accomplish a task, _____
 - (2) *I know thy labor*-labor associated with toil and/or _____
 - (3) *I know thy patience*-perseverance
 - (4) *I know you cannot bear those who are evil*-an intolerance of _____ people (*Evil men are a burden which the Ephesian Church regarded as intolerable. We are to "bear one another's burdens" (Ga 6:2) in the case of weak brethren; but not to bear false brethren. JFB*)
 - (5) *I know you have tested those who profess to be apostles and are not and have found them to be liars*-discernment toward those who profess to be God-called leaders yet by their _____ makes it very clear they are not telling the truth
 - (6) *I know you have borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted*
 - (a) *Borne*-to bear up under _____ or a load
 - (b) *Patience*-_____
 - (c) *Labored for Christ's name sake*-continued on simply to _____ the name of Christ
 - (d) *Have not fainted*-determination, not grown _____ of the task

- c. The second thing Christ makes know to them is that He recognizes their love for Him has _____ **Vs 4**
- (1) *Nevertheless*-in spite of all I just stated
 - (2) *Somewhat against thee*-this is a major _____ to your accomplishments
 - (3) *Thou hast left thy first love*
 - (a) Paul referred to Christian love at least _____ times in his letter to the Ephesians
 - (b) _____ years after Paul wrote the Epistle to the Ephesian believers, John wrote to them and commended them for their faithfulness in carrying out their duties but rebuked them because their love for Christ had dwindled. "*Their warmth of love had given place to a lifeless orthodoxy.*" JFB
- d. The third thing Christ makes known to them is that there _____ change taking place in the church—repentance **Vs 5**
- (1) **Remember**-_____ back to the to where they used to be
 - (a) How sweet your relationship with Christ _____ to be
 - (b) How you used to become _____ and rejoicing each time you were reminded of Christ in some way
 - (c) How Christ's love for you made you so _____ and desirous of giving praise to His name
 - (d) How that which motivated your labor for Christ in the past is _____ element today
 - (e) How Christ's love for you _____ your love for others
 - (f) How your relationship with Christ has changed for the _____
 - (2) **Repent**-recognizing their _____ to Christ and their actions being motivated by something other than _____ for Christ, confession of their sinfulness and change of attitude about what and how they were doing what they were doing was in order
 - (3) **Repeat**-_____ in love with Christ, and start doing their ministry out of a sense of devotion and desire to please Him instead of mere duty
 - (4) **Removal**-_____ to repent would result in removal of Christ's power and blessing on the church. The church would remain, but the presence and power of Christ would be _____
- e. The fourth thing that Christ makes known to them is that He recognizes good in the church and still wishes to identify with them-encouragement to _____ the necessary changes **Vs 6**
- (1) *Nicolaitans*-a lot of speculation has arisen as to who this group was.
 - (2) Three things are clear: [1] Their practices were _____, [2] The Church at Ephesus stood _____ them, and [3] Christ also _____ their deeds.)
2. John gives an _____ to the readers of this letter Vs 7
- a. *Overcomers*-Believers who _____ true to the Faith against all attacks
 - b. This admonition is _____ toward those who know Christ as Savior
 - c. Eternal benefits are _____ to the overcomers