

The Seven Churches of Asia

Jan 24, '10

EPHESUS

Prayer - The work of God - Highest in ~~the~~ conversion.

Hymn - ~~381~~ ³⁸¹ - (295) Come my soul your plea prepare.

Item -

Reading - Rev 2.1-7

IV V candle Talk
Memory Aid

- Ephesus impressive city - (like youth)

on Aegean Sea

• Near mouth of Cayster River

• Harbour accommodated
largest ships

• Well connected by highways
with most important cities

• Commercial centre of Asia

• Temple to Diana

Treasure House

Museum

Refuge for criminals

employed many silversmiths
(miniature shrines)

- Looks
relative

- health

- idealism

- optimism

- friends/family

- relative luxury/ease

- We make temples
& idols in our
hearts.

• We house our
'treasures'

• It is a refuge
for a sinful life.

- Established by Paul

Priscilla & Aquilla

Appolos taught with burning zeal

Work blessed - in and around Ephesus.

• The sale of shrines (silversmiths trade)
fell off

• When Temple of Diana burned in AD 262
it was never rebuilt.

This is like conversion (blessed & a blessing to all).

- Before that Timothy left in charge.
- A few years later, poss AD 66 (soon after start of Jewish War) we find the apostle John in Ephesus.
- Prob in AD 81-96 John banished to Patmos during reign of Domitian. He was released & died during reign of Trajan.

- Tradition relates John at very old age too feeble to walk, carried into the church 'Little children, love one another.'

- The church in Ephesus 40yrs⁺ old when letter written. Another generation arisen. (a bit like the Tabernacle)

Lack of enthusiasm, spontaneity, ardour. Not like ~~the~~ the first gen. (comment of Chris Laws).

- They lacked their former devotion to Christ. It had departed from its first love.

(C) We as Christians are prone to do so lose zeal. Downward escalator [ill].

(NC) As non christians - like the garden of eden. when Eve saw fruit - Pleasing to eye Good to eat
 • Pleasing to eye
 • Desired for knowledge

- Lust of Flesh
 " " Eyes
 Pride of life.

We've lost our first estate.

2.1 - Christ holds the seven stars ***
 • The true ministers (lights) (IF he holds the literal stars, how much more he holds us)
 Not False Apostles (small 'a')

- He commends them
 - cannot bear them which are evil
 - Tested those said 'apostles' found them liars.
- Had borne hardship patiently for Christ's sake
- Laboured not fainted.

[ILL] ^{the}
 A man in a hurry is prone to fall!

endured
 breeds character.

- You may have stood against evil things around you.
- You see falsehood for what it is (religious or cultural)
- You come to church faithfully even when would be easier not to.
- But ~~the~~ He ^{has something against} ~~the~~ ~~accuses~~ them (He sees good & bad) ~~for~~ leaving first love as mentioned.

There were works
 Toil &
 Endeavour Yes

But these may be present even though there is decay in life!

[Toll] I came to church when young (pre christian)
 (heart full of idols)
 Hidden - A shrine to the world

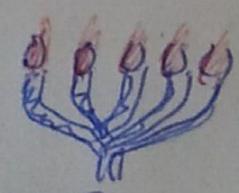
- When I was a cold christian (christian)
 still attended (life fruitless)

[Toll] like a wife still attending husband/household but love lessening.

[V]

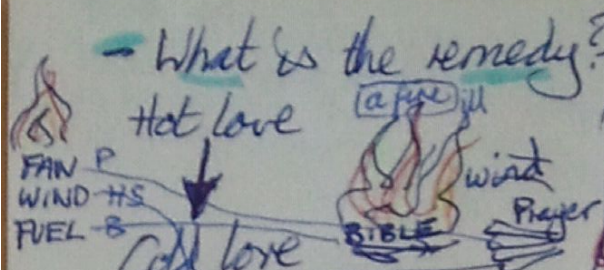


Flames smoke died down (like altar of incense)



or the lamp

still in temple still hate evil/pure doctrine but love colder.



- What is the remedy? - 1) Remember from where fallen.

- From Paradise (eaten of tree)
- From communion with Christ.
- From close presence left the temple & withdrawn to the outer courts like Ezekiel?
- Can you look back at better spiritual state?

2) Repeat (turn or return) or candlestick will be removed!

what is it? A saving Grace (not work).

Heart Judicially hardened

- Tree cut down
- Life lost.
- Flame Gone
- Blessings removed.

2 v6 - Another commendation - (Christ tender & gentle) They hated the deeds of the Nicolaitanes which Christ also hates.

Don't sleep so peacefully.

A group/sect a school of heretics individuals who refused to stay away from immoral, idolatrous banquets of heathen even tried to justify their sinful practice.

(Gods of trade guilds)

(like compromise with world) (Blind leading Blind) (I saw this week ill)

2 v7 He that has ear to hear... to churches - For all people.

Listen (take to heart) as well as just hear.

To him that overcometh 'Give to eat of tree of life (Christ) (Birthday) in midst of paradise of God' Conversion and future blessings.

The world & temptations

Jan 24th Complete BABY

we belong to God CREATION & PURCHASE +

Real life → Heaven

WARNING! Ephesus did eventually have candle removed where to Eph Today? it is a ruin. Youth Fades & fails.

In the end - Don't let your life be the same! V Blow out candle.

miss a meeting here, that in end nature. The lord doesn't.