

April 19, 2020
Keep Your First Love (Ephesus) Revelation 2:1-7
Series, "7 Church Reminders"

I) Important Identifiers V.1

- Information gained from V.1.
- "Angel" (*Aggelos*): messenger, one sent.
- Ephesus, key city (250-300K population).
- Church established ~56-57AD. See Acts 18 & 19.
- Vision & message to churches from the Lord.

II) God's Message to the Church V.2-6

- Positive report: hard work/labor, perseverance & patience.
- Opposition to deceptive/false teachers infiltrating the church. (Face the same today, i.e. bilking resources, sin tolerance)
- V.3 Church is faithful thru difficulties, not growing weary.
 - Ephesians 2:10 Doing the work for God's glory.
- V.6 Lord commends stand against Nicolaitans (pervert grace, promote sexual indulgences).
- V.4-5 Confronts forsaking their 1st love, calls to repent.
- Doing works with wrong motive.
 - Loving the Lord: John 14:15, 21, 23; John 15:9-12; Deuteronomy 6:5; 1 John 5:1-5; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 1 John 2:3-6.
- V.5 Return to 1st love, remember where have been.
- Consequence of not repenting: judgment, their actions have withdrawn them from the Lord.

III) Closing Encouragement V.7

- Hear what Spirit saying. Note plurality. Message to all.
- Overcome, repent from wandering & return to 1st love, shall eat from tree of life in paradise.

- What is your response to Him?
- How is the Lord speaking to you? How is He convicting?

- 2 Corinthians 13:5, Each examine self.

- Repent, return to Him, serve faithfully making eternal impact.