Church of Ephesus

Lessons from the Seven Churches of the 1st Century

Revelation 1: 19 - Outline of the book of Revelation – what is seen (Encounter with Christ), the things that are (7 Churches), and things that will occur

Revelation 1: 20 Lampstands – bear light in a dark world. Fueled by oil (Holy Spirit) Matthew 5:14. 7 Stars Represent the angels (messengers) of the 7 churches of Asia Minor. Mostly likely an envoy, elder or pastor. Stars in the right hand of protection, strength, and wisdom.

“Parable” churches to give us heavenly instruction or lessons for the Bride of Christ throughout all generations of the Church.

Picture of what believers may do in times of resistance, tribulation, persecution.

Biblical Times: a betrothal period - the bride (the Church) and groom (the Christ) were separated until the wedding. What is the bride’s responsibility during the betrothal period? 2 Corinthians 11:2-4

Ephesus - The Loveless Church – leading church of the 7, rich in truth/doctrine. Progressive, home of Diana (fertility goddess)

Commendation of Ephesus: hard working, perseverance, defenders of truth, rejected evil, endurance under hardship Revelation 2: 2-3, 6

Criticism/instructions:Left their first love, must remember the depths of their former love, repent and return to their previous way of seeing others as our Father does (unselfish, service) Warning for His Church of impending judgment without repentance and the light in Ephesus would go out. Revelation 2:4-5

Love = Greek Agape meaning charity, benevolence, wellbeing of others John 3:16. Love that is and from God 1 John 4:8. Love revealed by action Ephesians 2: 4-5, Romans 5:8 Love that is unselfish John 13:34, Matthew 5:44

Promise: To overcome **-** military term, suggesting combat against the forces of the darkness (Ephesians 6). Those who are faithful during persecution / tribulation giving proof of their faith will eat from the tree of life in paradise. Revelation 2:7