

# Letter to the Church at Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7

As a result of this lesson, I want my students

TK- When Paul preached in Ephesus, the believers received the Holy Spirit and Paul refuted the opposition and instructed the believers with mighty miracles for two years. When Jesus gave His message to the Ephesian church, He commended them for their hard work, not tolerating false teachers and Nicolaitans, and enduring hardship. Nevertheless, He rebuked them for forsaking their first love, and admonished them to remember, repent, and re-run their initial deeds.

BT- One who has been taught the truth should not only persevere for what is right, and not tolerate false teaching, but also they should not lose their first love but remember, repent and re-run their deeds if they have.

Trz- my students who have been taught the truth should not only persevere for what is right, and not tolerate false teaching, but also they should not lose their first love, but remember, repent and re-run their deeds if they have.

Trd- by persevering, not tolerating false teaching, and not losing their first love by remembering, repenting, and re-running their initial deeds of love

## Outline:

### I. Paul Preaches in Ephesus

#### A. Background of Ephesus

1. Transportation junction
2. Capital of Asia Minor
3. Legalized prostitution
4. Temple of Diana-120 yrs. To build  
100 pillars
5. Magic was common
6. Theater seats 25,000

#### B. Believers Receive Holy Spirit

1. Baptism of John
2. Jesus
3. Holy Spirit=tongues
4. About 12 men in all

#### C. Paul Refutes opposition

1. Taught 3 months in synagogue-  
persuasive
2. Took disciples to lecture hall of  
Tyrannus
3. Miracles of healing and exorcisms
4. Jewish Chief priest has seven sons  
who try to exorcise a demon and get beat up

### II. Jesus Commends the Ephesians

Show picture from Then/Now book of Ephesus

"If the bird is flying from right to left, and settles out of sight, good luck will come. But if it lifts up his left wing then misfortune will result." (Very superstitious)

- A. Toil/Hard work
- B. Can't tolerate wicked men
- C. Tested those who claimed to be apostles
- D. Persevered/Endured hardships
- E. Haven't grown weary
- F. Hate deeds of Nicolaitans

report card

### III. Jesus Rebukes the Ephesians for Forsaking First Love

Define first love:  
 First person I loved  
 Object that is above all others  
 Type of love you have at first

How can you tell the difference from observing between a couple that has been married for ten days and one that has been married for ten years?

#### You've Lost That Loving Feeling

What makes a person lose that first love?(maturity, time)  
 How do you get it back? How do you get someone to love another person? You can't scold them into it. You can scold a person into obedience, but not into love.  
 picture of Ephesians burning books

- A. Remember:
  1. Many of those who believed came and openly confessed their evil deeds.
  2. A number who practised sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publically.
  3. 137 years worth of salary (\$4million)
- B. Repent
- C. Re-run: "Do the things you did at first."

He's saying, "When was the time you were most loving me?" OR "When was the time you were loving me most?"

don't keep going and trying to hide it with right beliefs--own up to it.  
 "What changes do you need to make?"

#### Conclusion:

If you are one who knows the right thing to do, and you hate teaching that you know compromises the truth of God's word, and you're hanging in there--A+. Jesus isn't scolding us for these good things. This is great. I know that I do a lot of things because it's the right thing to do. I have to watch to make sure that my love is still in it. I don't want to do things just because I ought to but because I want to. About 9 years ago, Joe Novinson spoke at our school in Augusta, GA. One question that he asks himself at the beginning of everyday, "What can I do today just because I love Jesus?" At the close of every day, "What have I done today just because I love Jesus?" As this lesson has been going through my mind and heart, I did something that might be considered a little bit drastic, because something came to my mind that should be adjusted in my life. And I said, "Lord, I will adjust that because I love you. Not because I am being made to, or anyone is scolding me to obey, but because I love you." Listen as words of song play.