

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Letters to the Seven Churches : Ephesus

The Seven Churches in the Province of Asia were:

1. All under the direct leadership of the Apostle John. He had become _____ apostle.
2. Linked together _____ by a Roman Trade Route.
3. Representative of both _____ and _____ church practices, both then and now.
4. Representative of all churches, throughout all time, including _____.

Revelation 2:1-7

1. Positives: _____ You do good things in my name
 _____ Unafraid of a challenge
 _____ Keep going when it gets hard
 Cannot tolerate _____ people Don't allow evil a place
 Tested / identified _____ apostles Bible believing, no deceiving
 Persevered, endured hardships Willing to take the heat, the hit
 Not grown _____ Energized by service

2. Negative: "Thou hast left your first love" (KJV)
 "You have forsaken the love you had at first" (NIV)
 "You don't love _____ or _____ as you did at first!" (NLT)

3. Together: They served God out of _____, tradition, and **pragmatism**.
 But they _____ to do this with **gentleness, love, and respect** – for those they served, God, or even one another. (I Peter 2:17, and I Peter 3:15)

Warning: If you do not repent, I will take your _____ away from you.

1. Ephesus was:
 - a. The church _____ started in Acts 19 as Paul preached there for 2 years.
 - b. They are called “God’s holy people” in Ephesians 1:1, and had a _____ for their, “faith in the Lord Jesus and (their) love for all god’s people”
2. But they struggled with:
 - a. _____ worship services (I Timothy 2:8-15)
 - b. _____ leadership (I Timothy 3:1-13)
 - c. _____ for/ deal with widows, elders, and slaves (I Timothy 5)
 - d. Handling _____ (I Timothy 6)
3. They became the strongest church in Asia minor (church history – temple of Artemis)
4. Then they _____ the church described in Revelation 2.
5. Eventually they _____ to _____, and their area (Turkey) is a Muslim stronghold. (0.2% Christian in 2019)

Application:

1. We _____ desperately want to **do good deeds** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **guard the integrity of scripture, call out and speak against false teaching and false teachers, persevere** through hardship and persecution, and **not grow weary** of serving God.
2. BUT – we must not forget
 - a. _____ we truly serve
 - b. _____ we do such things
 - c. Where our _____ comes from
 - d. The eternal _____ of our family in Christ
 - e. _____ work is always bathed in love and respect.
3. Three churches have died in this building. HBC must _____ to Christ’s warning and NOT be the fourth.
4. Do the work, follow God’s teaching, commands, and principles. But do it with love in your heart for those you _____, those you serve _____, and for _____. Attitude matters.