

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for December 30-31, 2006

“The Loveless Church”
Revelation 2:1-7

We will examine six aspects of the message to the church in Ephesus so that we might understand the characteristics that Christ desires His church to possess.

1. The Commission to write to the church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1).

The first feature of this commission is that it is written to an angel. The term angel can literally be rendered messenger as in Luke 7:24 or James 2:5.

The second feature of this commission is that it is written to a church. In particular, it is directed to the church in the city of Ephesus.

The church in Ephesus had a rich 40-year history of being instructed and influenced by teachers such as Paul, Timothy, and John (Acts 19-20; 1 Timothy 1:3).

2. The Correspondent of the letter to the church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1).

First, Christ has complete power over His church.

Second, Christ has a continual presence in His church.

3. The Commendation given to the church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:2-3, 6).

First, Christ commends their sacrificial works.

The first deed that Christ commended the Ephesian church for was their toil. The term toil [KOPOS] denotes labor to the point of sweat and exhaustion. It describes an all-out effort, demanding all that a person has to give—physically, mentally, and emotionally.

The second deed that Christ commended the Ephesian church for was their perseverance. The term perseverance [HUPOMONE] denotes patience in trying circumstances. It pictures courageous acceptance of hardship, suffering and loss.

Second, Christ commends their spiritual wisdom.

The Ephesian church would not tolerate evil men.

The Ephesian church also tested those claiming to be apostles and strongly dealt with those who proved to be false.

4. The Condemnation for the church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:4).

Notice that the church did not lose their first love, but they left their first love. The word means to quit or forsake and emphasizes responsibility. They purposely forsook their love for the Lord, which resulted in routine mechanical orthodoxy.

5. The Counsel given to the church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:5).

STEP ONE: The Ephesian church was instructed to Remember.

STEP TWO: The Ephesian church was instructed to Repent.

STEP THREE: The Ephesian church was instructed to Repeat.

6. The Challenge to the overcomers in Ephesus (Revelation 2:7).

The promise that is given to the overcomer is that of eternal life with God in heaven.

I hope and pray that He would commend us not only for our sacrificial works and spiritual wisdom, but also for our love of God.