***“WHICH CHURCH ARE YOU?”***

**Part 1**

**Revelation 2:1-7**

*“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:****2****“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;****3****and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.****4****Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.****5****Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.****6****But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.* ***7****“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”*

1) Revelation was written by **JOHN** the Apostle in approximately A. D. **95**, while in

 exile on the **GREEK** island of Patmos.

2) The overall message of Revelation is that **GOD** is the sovereign ruler of the

 universe, and He is in **CONTROL**. Therefore, He will enable those who are

 faithful to Him to ultimately be victorious over **SIN** and **SATAN**.

3) The purpose of Revelation is to **REVEAL** the full identity and character of **JESUS.**

4) John focuses the message of Revelation on seven individual **CHURCHES**, located

 in **SEVEN** separate cities across ancient Asia Minor: **EPHESUS**, Smyrna, Pergamum,

 Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

5) The first lesson that we can take from the **LETTER** to the Ephesians is that **GOD**

 expects His people to stand for **TRUTH** and righteousness even in the face of

 opposition and persecution (Revelation 2:1-3).

6) In standing up for truth and righteousness, we must be careful to oppose **SIN** and

 not oppose **PEOPLE**.

7) The second lesson that we can glean from the letter to the church at Ephesus

 and that is true righteousness is always **BUILT** upon a foundation of **LOVE**

 (Revelation 2:4).

8) When we are out of relationship with **GOD**, it compromises our relationships with

 **ONE** another.

9) In v. 5, Jesus offers a remedy to the plight of the Ephesian church, urging them to

 **REMEMBER**, **REPENT**, and **RETURN** (Revelation 2:5).

10. Jesus warns the Ephesians that if they refused to remember, **REPENT**, and return

 to their **FIRST** love, that He would remove their lampstand from its place among

 the churches (Revelation 2:5).

11) To everyone who remembers, repents, and **RETURNS** to their first love, Jesus

 promises that they will **EAT** from the **TREE** of life in the paradise that He has

 prepared for us (Revelation 2:7)