

Exposition of Revelation
Letter to Church at Ephesus
Rev. 2:1-7

Overview of the Seven Letters

Church	Ephesus 2:1-7	Smyrna 2:8-11	Pergamum 2:12-17	Thyatira 2:18-29	Sardis 3:1-6	Philadelphia 3:7-13	Laodicea 3:14-22
Address to the angel of the church	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Self-Identity of Christ (related to Rev.1)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Commendations	•	•	•	•		•	
Criticism/Correction	•		•	•	•		•
Call to repentance	•		•	•	•		•
Call to hear the Spirit	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Promise to the overcomers	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

1. The seven churches represent the whole church.
2. The churches find themselves in situations of
 - Faithfulness in persecution/suffering or compromise
 - Spiritual complacency/apathy or vitality
 - Doctrinal purity or compromise
 - Moral purity or moral laxity

“Together the letters constitute a visitation of the churches to see whether they are in a fit state to face the coming crisis.” Caird

3. The promise to the overcomers
 The promises are eschatological
 The overcomers are Christians
 Christ is the Overcomer (Jn 16:33; Rev. 5:5; 17:14)
 Overcoming is a metaphor for the life of faith (conflict with the world, the flesh, the devil); it expresses persevering faith. 1 Jn 5:4-5; Rev. 21:7-8

I. Address and Identity of Christ (2:1)

A. To the angel of the church in Ephesus write

B. Christ’s Self-Identity

II. Commendations (2:2-3)

- A. I know your works and toil and endurance

- B. I know your doctrinal fidelity

- C. I know you have endurance and have endured because of my name and have not become weary

Summary: What a church! Doctrinally sound, discerning, hard-working, faithful and steadfast, steady in the face of opposition.

III. Criticism (2:4)

- A. But I have this against you

- B. Your love, the first, you have departed/left

“They had set out to be defenders of the faith, arming themselves with the heroic virtues of truth and courage, only to discover that in the battle they had lost the one quality without which all others are worthless.” Caird

IV. Call to Repentance and Threat (2:5)

- A. Remember, therefore, from where you have fallen

- B. And repent

- C. And do the first works

- D. Otherwise I shall come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent

V. Further Commendation (2:6)

- A. But (however) this you have

- B. You hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate

VI. Call to Hear and Promise to the Overcomers (2:7)

- A. The one having ears, he must hear what the Spirit says to the churches

- B. To the one who overcomes

- C. I shall give to him to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God