

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Template of all 7 letters - Rv 2. 1] The Address; 2] The Author; 3] The Evaluation; 4] Praise or Reproof; 5] Exhortation; 6] Hear what Spirit says; 7] Promises to Overcomer - Last LD #1-4 re Eph - v1-7.
2. *Lampstand - removed?* Eph not shining light of gospel altho orthodox.

**1st: Words of Commendation - v2-3 [Review]**

1. Call to repent [v5]: context of commendations
2. know *deeds* [energy]: activities - J sees where the ch is exerting effort: *and... and = both... and = both [your toil] & [your perseverance]*
3. not tolerate evil men - personal qualifications + doctrine: Hymenaeus & Alexander; Demas
4. *tested - apostles* [A-postles or a-postles] & *found false* [liar] - Cor's tolerated rivals to Paul; Diotrephes in 3Jn. 2Pt 2:1-3; [Gal 1:8]
5. *persevered & not grown weary* - faithful over decades - *for Christ's sake*
6. Effort to maintain orthodox doctrine midst confusion & heresy commended

**2nd: Words of Reproof - v4**

1. *you* is singular = church addressed as one single unit
2. Sardis, Thyatira & Pergamum are divided: have pockets of false teaching
3. Smyrna & Philadelphia united, facing persecution: no rebuke; Eph & Laodicea - united in loss of 1st love - lukewarm: threat of removal

**3rd: Words of Exhortation: a Threat - v5**

1. 3-step program: 1] *remember*; 2] *repent*; 3] *do deeds*. All depends on definition of *1st love*.
  - i. inclined to romanticize *love* - warm emotional feeling: not irrelevant
  - ii. *1st love* understood in light of the threat - v5 remove lampstand. Lex Talionis - punishment fits crime. Failure to shine light as lampstand
  - iii. [Isa 49:6] *a light of the nations* [Is 49:6]; Mat 5:13-16; 2C 4:3-6
2. *remember - from where you have fallen*: present state is lower [fallen] from *what you did at first*: over time, church is not what was at it was at 1st
3. *repent*: change mind [thot]; reorder values [affections]; choose [will] to act [do] in opposite way - 180° turn -> *do the deeds* [A20:21; 26:20]: renew efforts in evangelism: witness.
4. *or else & unless*: consequences if not *repent* [2x] - Jesus is serious about Eph's witness & wants Eph's to be serious too - like they used to be.
  - i. *I am coming to you*
  - ii. *will remove your lampstand* = how? If church is not evangelizing what will happen? No growth - light grows dim, flickers, goes dark.
  - iii. *out of its place* - [topography]: location: time & place, church closes.
  - iv. *unless you repent* - seize the opportunity & do deeds of repentance.

**4th: Another Word of Commendation - v6**

1. Another encouragement: *hate deeds of Nicolaitans wh/ I also hate*.

## EPHESUS: TRUTH WITHOUT LOVE, Pt 2 - Rev 2:1-7

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2. Their *love* is not lost as evident in what they *hate*. Love/hate concern cov rlnshp [Rm 9:13]. Eph not enter into cov w/ Nicolaitans = *hate*. Pergamum did not discipline the Nics [2:14-15] - assoc'd w/ Balaam [Num 22-25]. Heresy is seen in *deeds* [Mat 7:20]: sexual sin & idolatry: "saeculum"
3. Did Eph repent? Likely that 2nd generation did - today city is Muslim. Sober to see generation influence generation - A 13:36; Ezek 18; A 20:24

### 5th: Command to Hear What the Spirit Says to the Churches - v7a

1. repeated refrain: Mk 4:9,23; Mt 11:15; 13:9,43; Lk 8:8; 14:35; Rev 13:9. 3 requirements: 1) ability to hear; 2) willing to listen; 3) resolve to obey
2. Ezk 3:27 not merely a rhetorical devise: warning people who are not hearing: judicial hardening: cldn't be more serious
3. *to the churches*: written to Eph to be heard by all

### 6th: Promises to the Overcomer: v7b

1. *overcomes* = currently & continuously overcoming - 1 Jn 5:4 live by faith
2. We need to stir up our 1st love - *Lord, help us!* as we evangelize & intercede for family & friends.
3. *tree of life in God's paradise* - we're made to be like God & to live w/ God. Rev 22:1-7 AMEN