

Revelation 2:1-11

1. General Information about the Letters to the Seven Churches

- a. The seven churches are historical churches.
- b. The seven churches are representative churches.
- c. The seven churches are not seven eras of church history.
- d. The message sent to each church has the same basic outline:
 - i. Description of Christ
 - ii. Commendation
 - iii. Rebuke
 - iv. Solution
 - v. Consequences of Disobedience
 - vi. Promises for those who Persevere
- e. There are exceptions to this basic structure:
 - i. Sardis and Laodicea receive no commendation.
 - ii. Smyrna and Philadelphia receive neither rebuke nor warnings about the consequences of disobedience.
- f. Who are the “angels” of the churches?
 - i. Celestial beings
 - ii. Pastors

2. To the Church in Ephesus (2:1-7): The Loveless Church

- a. Description of Christ
 - i. He holds the seven stars in His right hand (v. 1)
 - ii. He walks among the seven golden lampstands (v. 1)
- b. Commendation
 - i. They have discovered the false apostles (v. 2).
 - ii. They are enduring patiently (v. 3).
 - iii. They hate the works of the Nicolaitans (v. 6).
 1. Who were the Nicolaitans (cf. Rev. 2:15)?
- c. Rebuke
 - i. They have abandoned their first love (v. 4)
- d. Solution
 - i. Remember (v. 5a)
 - ii. Repent (v. 5b)
 - iii. Return to the first works (v. 5c)

- e. Consequence of Disobedience
 - i. I will remove your lampstand (v. 5d)
 - f. Promise for those who Persevere
 - i. To eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God (v. 7; Gen. 3:22-24; Rev. 22:1-2)
3. **To the Church in Smyrna (2:8-11): The Persecuted Church**
- a. Description of Christ
 - i. He is the first and the last (v. 8)
 - ii. He is the One who died and came to life (v. 8)
 - b. Commendation
 - i. Enduring...
 - 1. ...tribulation (v. 9)
 - 2. ...poverty (v. 9; cf. James 2:5)
 - 3. ...slander from those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan (v. 9)
 - c. Rebuke- None
 - d. Solution
 - i. More suffering is predicted (v. 10)
 - 1. Satan shall throw you in prison for a ten-day tribulation (v. 10)
 - e. Consequence of Disobedience- None
 - f. Promise for those who Persevere
 - i. To receive the crown of life (v. 10; James 1:12)
 - ii. Not to be hurt by the second death (v. 11; cf. Rev. 20:6)