

PRIORITY ★ MAIL ★



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“Ephesus”
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Receiving a **letter in the mail** is often a special thing.

In this year of Jesus, we next focus on the letters that Jesus **dictates to the Church**.

Revelation 2 & 3 contain seven letters to seven churches.

Each letter **encourages** and **challenges** churches and Christians today.

Revelation 2:1-7

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

The encouragement:

- He **sees us**. (vs 2-3)
- He values **perseverance**.

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us ...

The challenge:

- Focus on the **main thing**. (vs 4-5)
- **Repent**.

Proverbs 1:23

“Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings.”

Paradise is on the horizon! (vs 7)