

TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN ASIA

EPHESUS

THE
EPHESUS
LETTER

Christ's Portrait

He Who Holds the Seven Stars in His Right Hand

- *“The angels of the seven churches”* (1:20)
- *“To the angel”* (2:1) = *“to the churches”* (2:7) — the message of the church's true state of being — the character of the church.

He Who Walks in the Midst of the Seven Golden Lampstands

- *“The seven churches”* (1:20) — the function of the church.
- He is in their midst — 1:13 — presence, fellowship, knowledge, oversight, testing vision.

Christ's Praise

1. Their Works (v. 2)

- Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:10

2. Their Labor (v. 2)

- 2 Cor. 8:5; 2 Sam. 24:24

3. Their Patience (v. 2)

- 1 Peter 5:8-9

4. Their Purity (vv. 2, 6)

- 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 9

5. Their Doctrinal Integrity (v. 2)

- 1 Cor. 12:3; 1 John 4:1-6

6. Their Perseverance (v. 3)

- John 5:34; 9:4-5

7. Their Vigor (v. 3)

- 2 Thessalonians 3:13

Christ's Protest

“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” (v. 4)

Their First Love

- The church of Ephesus at the “*first*” — Acts 19:8-9, 18-20; 20:36-38; Ephesians 1:15
 - “*For the love of Christ compels us*” (2 Corinthians 5:14) (cf. Luke 7:37-39, 44-47; 1 John 4:10, 19)
- It is the marital love of the beginning — 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Proverbs 5:18-20; Malachi 2:11, 14

Christ's Protest

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Evidence of Their Departure

- Another church at the first — *“your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope” (1 Thessalonians 1:3).*
 - Faith in Christ (**Galatians 2:20**)
 - Love for Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:14-15**)
 - Hope toward Christ (**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 5:9-10**)
- Without love we are nothing — **1 Corinthians 13:2**

Christ's Prescription

“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works” (v. 5)

- **Remember** — 2 Peter 1:9, 12-15; Hebrews 6:4-5; 10:32
- **Repent** — Romans 2:4
- **Repeat** — Acts 3:19 — *“left your first love,” “do the first works”*

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