

How can I understand the letter to the church of Ephesus in Revelation (2:1-7)?

The next section of the book of Revelation is a series of 7 letters sent to 7 different first century churches. The churches that were to receive the letters were churches that already existed and the condition of those churches are what is being addressed. It has nothing to do with the general state of the church during 7 epochs of time but the churches with the described characteristics existed in the first century and they continue to exist today.

1. Who or what is the “angel of the church”?

Revelation **2:1**
Zechariah 1:9

Hebrews **1:13-14**
1 Peter **5:1-3**

The angel of the church is the ministering spirit of the church. It is the one who is called by God to speak to the people of the church the words and testimony of God and Christ. It is basically a role that is similar in concept to that of the pastor or shepherd or the church.

2. What is the significance of the identity of the speaker to the angel?

Revelation **2:1**
Hebrews 13:17

Revelation **1:20**
Acts **20:28-31**

The seven stars are the seven angels. It is God who holds the messenger or pastor of the church in His right hand. This means that the pastor is responsible to God in regards to how he teaches and guides the people and he will be held accountable.

3. What is the word of encouragement to the church?

Revelation **2:2-3, 6**
2 Timothy **3:16-17**

2 Timothy 2:15-16
Titus **3:8-11**

The church of Ephesus for the most part is faithful church in regards to doctrine and discernment. They were committed to doing the service and work of the Lord and were unwilling to receive and accept heretical teachings. When people claim to be Christians and especially Christian leaders and teachers, they investigate their teachings and their doctrines before they become willing to accept and receive them as faithful and acceptable.

4. What is the word of condemnation to the church?

Revelation **2:4**
Mark 7:5-7
Hebrews **10:24-25**

Deuteronomy **6:5**
Matthew **23:23**

The first love of the Christian ought to be a committed love of the Lord and committed to His service. Unfortunately it appears that the people of the church had lost their commitment to the

Lord and to the fellowship of the beloved brethren. They may not have been as committed to gathering together as other life events took precedence.

5. What is the word of correction to the church?

Revelation **2:5**

1 Corinthians **6:9-11**

Mark **5:18-20**

The correction for the church is to remember who they are and what they did when they first fell in love with the Lord. They are called to return to serving Him and pursuing Him and His works and high calling.

6. What is the word of encouragement to the those that obey?

Revelation **2:7**

John **10:27-29**

2 Corinthians **8:1-3**

Those that truly take heed to the call of Christ will be rewarded with Eternal Life. Not only that but they would have a life of joy, even in the midst of troubles and difficulties.