

## MESSAGE TO EPHESUS - Rev. 2: 1 - 7

**Rev. 1: 3** “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.”

Eph. 1: 15, 16 “For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you.”

**Eph. 3: 1- 21** “That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

**Eph. 4: 1- 3** “Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.”

John 13: 34, 35 “**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**”

I John 3: 18 “Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed & truth.”

I John 5: 4, 5 “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

Rev. 12: 10, 11 And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. And they **overcame** him because of the **blood of the Lamb** and because of the **word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.**”

I Cor. 13: 3 “If I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.”

Matt. 22: 37-39 Greatest commandment – “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**” “The second is like it, ‘**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**”

## Church of Ephesus

The **church** of Jesus Christ is people, His people, of every race and nation who love Christ and are committed to worshipping & serving Him.

**God cares about His church.** Praised for successes and told them how to correct their failures. Wants church to reach its greatest potential.

**Ephesus** - Capital of Asia Minor - 300,000 people (largest & wealthiest, great amphitheater, gymns, baths, impressive public buildings.

Most favorable seaport, important trade center. Today the city lies in swampy ruins about six miles from the sea because of centuries of silting.

Temple of Artemis “Diana” (daughter of Zeus) – one of the 7 wonders of the Ancient World. Major industry – manufacture of images of Artemis.

Church began at Pentecost (Acts 2). Fanned by persecution it spread.

Church of Ephesus – founded by Paul (Priscilla and Aquila) in AD 53.

John’s residence before & after exile. John settled & ministered at Ephesus. Tomb of John is located at the Church of St. John in Ephesus. Ephesus had become a large proud church.

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**Nicolaitans** – believers who compromised their faith in order to enjoy some of the sinful practices of the Ephesian society.

***Do you love God with the same fervor as when you were a new Christian?***