

## God's Design in the Greek Scriptures: Revelation

### The Light That Failed — Ephesus

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- I. The Things Which You Have Seen: The Christ, 1.1-20
- II. The Things Which Are: The Churches, 2.1—3.22
  - A. The Message to Ephesus, 2.1-7
    1. Destination, 2.1a  
In biblical times, "church" had three meanings: 1) it was a technical term for "the body of Christ" as a whole (Col1.18, 24); 2) it was used to designate a particular assembly of believers in a specific location (Rom16.5; 1Cor16.19; Col4.15); and 3) it was used to identify the assemblies in a certain city, e.g., Ephesus (Rom16.1; 1Cor1.2).
    2. Descriptive title of Christ, 2.1b
    3. Commendation, 2.2-3
      - 1) { expands "deeds" } and that you cannot tolerate evil men,
      - 2) { expands "toil" } and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false;
      - 3) { expands "perseverance" }<sup>3</sup> and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.
    4. Condemnation, 2.4  
  
Nicolaitans — Jesus "hated" this teaching because it denied His very Person as the God-man who brought New Life in both spiritual and physical unity!

5. Correction, 2.5-6  
Remember – Repent – Renew

6. Counsel, 2.7a

7. Promise, 2.7b  
Overcomer — 1Jn5.4-5

The MEANS of our Provision of Victory — is the Person and Work of Jesus. Jesus is THE Overcomer, the ultimate source and means of victory, cf Jn16.33; Rev5.5; Rom8.37.

John writes, 1 Jn 5:4. <sup>4</sup>For whatever { NOT “everyone” and the ESV and NIV translate, the term here is specifically neuter to emphasize the point . . . it is NEVER man who overcomes, but his birth from God through faith in Jesus that brings New Life. This alone gives the capacity to overcome the world! } is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

The METHOD of victory is clearly set out in Scripture. Several texts could be turned to but 1Jn5.4 is extremely clear . . . “and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

Since victory is completed by Jesus, not by any means, anything we have done, our victory always comes by faith in the completed and sufficient work of Jesus! Our victory here is not a victory won, it’s a victory received by faith!

“The tree of life” takes us back to Gen2.9; 3.22 and anticipates what we’ll find in Rev22.2, 14.