

## REVELATION 2:1-7 / EPHESUS

- CHAPTER 2 IS A COMMUNICATION FROM JESUS CHRIST
- VERSE 1: To the ANGEL of the church of Ephesus write.
  - Angel = messenger, minister?
  - Message is to the church
- WHO IS THE MESSAGE FROM?
  - From Him who holds the 7 stars and walks among 7 lampstands (Jesus)
- GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:
  - Each church is different
  - Due to this difference, a different attribute of Christ is revealed to each.
  - Churches symbolize:
    - Condition of historical churches of John's day
    - Condition of modern churches (any church)
    - Some believe symbolize stages of church history
- FOUR PART MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS
  - Verses 2-3: The Lord's Commendation
  - Verse 4: .....Condemnation
  - Verses 5-6 .....Counsel
  - Verse 7 .....Challenge

## REVELATION 2:8-11 / SMYRNA

- THE MESSAGE IS FROM HIM WHO IS THE FIRST AND THE LAST, WHO DIED AND CAME TO LIFE AGAIN. (VS 8)
  - Jesus described himself this way because this characteristic could meet a need that the church had. (This could instill strength and courage.
  - This reveals that the church was persecuted. (Because they were a Christian witness in a pagan city.)
  - Persecution brought a high level of commitment to the church. (The church of Smyrna and Philadelphia are the only two churches mentioned that are not condemned by Christ.)
- THE MESSAGE HAS THREE POINTS:
  - The Lord's Commendation (Vs 10) ...know poverty, yet rich...
  - .....Counsel (10) ...don't be afraid, be faithful unto death...
  - .....Challenge (10b-11)...faithful will receive crown, escape 2<sup>nd</sup> death
- *INSIGHT: Stay faithful to the Lord regardless of persecution.*