

Bereans Bible Institute

Module XI – Revelation

Lesson 7 – Rev. 2:1-7

I. The Seven Letters

- A. Jesus' dictated them, and addressing them to the seven assemblies
- B. These letters are an extension of the vision in chapter 1
- C. Addressed to the seven "messengers" (pastors)
- D. Three Common Interpretations:
 - 1. Intended for those actual 1st century assemblies only, (preterists)
 - 2. Prophetic of seven consecutive "Church Ages," (Dispensationalists, WWCG)
 - 3. These seven assemblies were chosen in order to illustrate Jesus' reaction to various kinds of assemblies.

E. Ephesus: Rev. 2:1-7

- 1. Vs. 1 "the one holding the seven stars in His right hand" (pastors-messengers) Ps. 63:8 *"My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me."*
 - The one walking in the midst of the seven golden lampstands (inspecting the assemblies)
- 2. Vs. 2 "I HAVE OBSERVED ..."
 - a. Hebrews 4:12-16 God's LOGOS is "the Judge of inner sentiments and thoughts of the heart"
 - b. In Rev. 3:1, He possesses the "7 Breaths" which are identified as the "7 eyes" of the Lamb (Rev. 4:5 & 5:6)
 - c. The same seven eyes roamed the earth in the 2nd Temple period (Zech. 3:9 & 4:10).
 - d. Ezek. 1:3 The Logos of the Lord came to Ezekiel:
 - 1. 4-24 Something approached Ezekiel
 - 2. 25-28 Appearance of a Man on a throne
- 3. Vs. 2-3 Commendations:
 - a. Good deeds, toil, endurance
 - b. No toleration for evil people (ejected?)
 - c. 'Tested' self-proclaimed 'Apostles' and called them 'false'
 - 1. 2 Cor. 11:1-16 the "false Apostles" were proclaiming Greek philosophical concepts, and claiming visions (ch. 12).
 - 2. We should "test" all those who claim special revelation from God, using objective verification means. (Charismatics:

tongues, prophecies, dreams, visions, claims to be an
"Apostle."

d. Patience, endurance, labored through the name of Jesus.

4. Vs. 4 Fault: abandoned the first "love."

a. Waning sacrificial love for one another reflects waning love for Christ.

5. Vs. 5 Remember & Repent, LOVE reflected in DEEDS

a. Threat: Removal of "lampstand" = no place for the "Spirit" (Lamp of God)

6. Vs. 6 Hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans which Jesus hates.

a. Nicolaitans embraced teachings of Plato about the nature of man, denial of the resurrection as in 1 Cor. 15.

7. Vs. 7 Exhortation

a. "The one having an ear, listen" a favorite expression of Jesus from Isa. 6:10; Ezek. 12:2 (Matt. 11:15; 13:9; Mk. 4:9,23; 7:16; Lk. 8:8; 14:35).

b. Jesus was speaking to the assemblies by the "Breath." Thus, "Breath" is not a distinct Person. (1 John 2:1 Jesus as the 'Paraclete').

c. The Promise to the one who is victorious: to eat from the Tree of Life which is in the midst of the 'Paradise (Garden) of God.'

1. Isa. 65:22 LXX *"They shall by no means build, and others inhabit; and they shall by no means plant, and others eat: for as the days of the tree of life shall be the days of my people, they shall long enjoy the fruits of their labors."*

2. Ezekiel 47:7,12

3. Rev. 22:1-2