

EPHESUS: PERSEVERANT BUT ABANDONED LOVE

Revelation 2:1-7

1 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: **2** ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false; **3** and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary. **4** But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. **5** Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. **6** Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. **7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

EXEGETICAL CONTEXT

The **One** who holds **seven stars**

The One who walks among the **golden lampstands**

False apostles

Their perseverance and endurance

In face of false doctrine—or possibly also persecution?

Nicolaitans

EXPOSITION

Deeds of toil and perseverance

Not tolerating evil men—testing false apostles

Endured and not grown weary

Lost your first love

You have fallen from that first level

Remember from where you have fallen

Do as you did at first

I will remove the lampstand—the witness?—unless you

Repent—return to your first love—and do the deeds you did at first

Overcome—keep on persevering—and I will give you tree of life

APPLICATION

Test false teachers—but don’t get so hung up on doctrine that we lose our first love

Losing first love—from when first saved—first committed to ministry—first . . .

Example of first love: