



THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

**Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship
Placerita Baptist Church**

Place in the Book of Revelation

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.

Introductory Comments

- **An abundance of material dealing with local church problems and practices.**
- **Study these seven epistles as closely as you study any New Testament epistle.**



A. Ephesus (2:1–7)

- **Strategic.**
- **City of change: once inhabited.**
- **The citadel of idolatry: Temple of Diana.**















A. Ephesus (2:1–7)

1. Characterization of Christ (v. 1)

- He sovereignly controls the church at Ephesus.**
- He preserves the church at Ephesus with His power.**
- His presence abides with the church at Ephesus.**

A. Ephesus (2:1–7)

2. Commendation from Christ (vv. 2–3, 6)

- He commends the church at Ephesus for its works.**
- He commends the church at Ephesus for its orthodoxy.**
- He commends the church at Ephesus for its perseverance.**

Nicolaitans

- **Best view: Nicolaus (Acts 6:5) founded the Nicolaitans.**
- **Alternate view: They are a priestly hierarchy.**
- **The commitment to false teaching and immorality (cp. teachings of Baalam; Rev 2:14–15; see Num 31:16; 25:1–2).**
- **Only Revelation 2:6 and 15.**
- **Cp. false teachings and immorality of Jezebel at Thyatira (2:20–24).**

A. Ephesus (2:1–7)

3. Complaint by Christ (v. 4)

- He complains that the church at Ephesus has left its first love.**

A. Ephesus (2:1–7)

4. Counsel from Christ (v. 5a)

- He counsels the church at Ephesus to remember what they used to be.**
- He counsels the church at Ephesus to repent.**
- He counsels the church at Ephesus to return to their former deeds.**

A. Ephesus (2:1–7)

5. Caution by Christ (v. 5b)

- He warns the church at Ephesus that they are in danger of losing their witness for Christ—their light might go out and its doors close.**

A. Ephesus (2:1–7)

6. Commitment of Christ (v. 6)

- The overcomers at Ephesus will partake of the tree of life (see 22:2, 14, 19).**

A. Ephesus (2:1–7)

7. Practical Implications

- Separation without compassion leads to a loss of fervor and freshness in service for Christ.**
- Love for Christ must energize the church's compulsion for doctrinal purity.**
- Mature service for Christ must include freshness in fervor for Christ Himself.**

A. Ephesus (2:1–7)

Questions for Discussion

- a) How can _____ gain Christ's commendations that He gave to the church at Ephesus?
- b) What could cause _____ to lose its/his/her witness for Christ?
- c) How can _____ avoid Christ's complaints about the church at Ephesus?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- He is sovereign.
- He cares for His church.
- He preserves His church.
- He abides with His church.
- He knows His church.
- He instructs His church.