

The Mysteries of the Church at Ephesus

- I.** History of Ephesus, 'desirable'.
 1. Received the most teaching (Acts 20:27, 31).
 2. Apostle Paul, then later Timothy and the Apostle John functioned as pastor there. Enlightenment=responsibility.
 3. Prominent in early church (Acts 19:8-10), defunct in 200ad.
- II.** The "*things that are ... and the things about to come after these things*" (Rev. 1:19).
 1. Seven stars = seven messengers and seven golden lamp stands = seven churches.
 2. The mysteries are:
 - 1) That the pastor will be held responsible for the success and/or failure of the church.
 - 2) Regarding the church:
 - i. The image will be contrasted/compared in describing the behavior of the church.
 - ii. The destiny will be prophesied.
 - iii. There is a promise to the overcomer.
- III.** The messenger/pastor is addressed directly: accountable for the church's conduct.
 1. 'Church' translates a term meaning "called out assembly", it is 'church' when believers are meeting.
 2. A church is not a building.
 3. They are called out from the world (Jn. 15:18-19).
- IV.** The features of the image emphasize Christ's judgement of their conduct.
 1. "*The One holding the seven stars in His right hand*" (Rev. 2:1; 1:16).
 - 1) Shows Christ's direct, highest relationship as Chief Shepherd to the under shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4).
 - 2) Shows the pastor is accountable directly to Christ.
 2. "*The one walking in the midst of the seven golden lamp stands*" (Rev. 2:1; 1:12-13).
 - 1) "*Walks among*" Shows Christ's personal relationship to the local church as Head of the Body (Eph. 4:16; Col. 2:19).
 - 2) Combined with the 'star' the image indicates the reciprocal relationship of the pastor-church, church-pastor: each reflect the other.