

The Mysteries of the Church at Ephesus

- I.** Two sets of mysteries regarding each church (Rev. 1:19-20).
 1. Mystery regarding the messenger/pastor, that he will receive both the blame and the credit of the church's behavior (Jam. 3:1; Heb. 13:17).
 2. Mystery regarding the church;
 - 1) Their work related to the Image symbolizing judgment.
 - 2) Their destiny as predictive of a future major movement in Christendom.
 - 3) The promise to the overcomer—the true believer.
 3. 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. More enlightenment = more responsibility (Mt. 11:20-22).
 - 3) Prominent in early church (Acts 19:8-10), defunct by 200ad.
- II.** The Image's Description of Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-6 cf. 1:12-16),
 1. The church relationship to the Image.
 - 1) *Stands in His right hand:* The Chief Shepherd's dominate role and direct relationship to the local shepherd/pastor (1 Pet. 5:1-4).
 - 2) *Walks in the midst of the lampstands* the Head of the Church is intimately connected to the local churches.
 2. The 'Son of Man' knows, intellectually (1 Cor. 4:5):
 - 1) *Works*, always the basis for degree of reward/punishment (1 Cor. 3:13-15; Rev. 20:12 cf. Eph. 2:8-9).
 - 2) *Labor*, heavy toil to point of exertion.
 - 3) *Patience* is a human developed skill (Rom. 5:3-4).
 - 4) *Do not bear* those who lack character.
 - 5) *Tried* 'false' apostles (irony).
 - 6) *Without weariness*.
 - 7) *For His name sake* (cf. Mt. 7:21-23).
 3. *Repent ... or I will ... remove your lampstand* (v. 5).
- III.** Summary: Ephesus was a very proper church that maintained an outward propriety. They used the name of Christ, and worked hard in their own strength—all self-effort neglecting a dependence upon the Head (Eph. 4:16; Col. 2:19).