

## **The Mysteries regarding 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.
    - 4) Ephesus, 'desirable', represents the Church when the apostles and other revelatory gifts were operating.
- II.** Ephesus portrays the early church during the transition from the Old to New Testament circa 33 to 100 AD.
1. They were well taught.
  2. They were 'proper.'
  3. Their works all reflect their own strength.
  4. They 'sent away' ("left" KJV) their first love—a divine enabling; therefore, they lacked divine enabling.
  5. They had fallen from their place of blessing (v. 5).
  6. They needed to change their mind regarding practicing the New Commandment (v. 5).
  7. The consequence of not changing their mind and behavior, is they will be removed from their association with Christ (v. 5).
  8. They detested the Nicolaitanes (v. 6). '*Nicao*' means conquer. '*Laos*' means people. Together = "*conquer the people*". A reference to the separation between the 'clergy' and the 'layman', an apparent movement in the early church.
- III.** The promise to the Overcomer (v. 7).
1. Who is the Overcomer?
    - 1) The Overcomer is the New Testament saint (1 Jn. 5:5-7).
    - 2) Who has ears? (cf. Mt. 13:13).
    - 3) There is potentially a true believer in all seven churches.
  2. The Tree of Life is currently located in Paradise at the edge of the Third Heaven, it was in the Garden of Eden (2 Cor. 12:2).
    - 1) It sustains physical life (Gen. 3:22-23).
    - 2) It is not required by glorified bodies (1 Cor. 15:35-55).
      - i. Old Test. saints till resurrection after Tribulation.
      - ii. New Test. saints till the Rapture.
      - iii. Millenium saints live for 1,000 years.