

Book of Revelation, part 13

I. The Letter to the church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7).

1. Ephesus represents the apostolic period, about 33-96 AD.
2. More enlightenment, more accountability (Mt. 11:20-22).

II. Verse one, the Image of judgment:

1. "The One holding the seven stars..."
 - 1) Pastor neglected his accountable directly to Christ (Rev. 1:16, 20; Heb. 13:7, 17; Jam. 3:1).
 - 2) Pastor ignored his relationship to the Head-shepherd.
2. "He who is walking in the midst of the golden lampstands..."
 - 1) The church has drifted from Christ as the center of its mission.
 - 2) They quite probably adopted another Jesus from a different spirit and with a different gospel (2 Cor. 11:4; 5:16).

III. Christ knows their works, verses 2 & 3.

1. Their work and toil (*cf.* 1:9).
2. They had patience—circumstances (Rom. 5:3).
3. They could not bear those lacking in character—history?
4. They tested ones calling themselves apostles (Acts 20:10; 2 Cor. 10:8; 11:13; 1 Jn. 4:1).
5. They are bearing persecution, were patient.
6. Because of Christ's name, they bore *persecution* (*cf.* Mt. 7:21-23).
7. They continually did not grow weary.

IV. Christ's reproach, verses 4-5.

1. Contrarywise, Christ has against them that they abandoned their first love (1 Jn. 4:12, 20-21; Jn. 13:34).
 - 1) Usually by including the world in the New Commandment (1 Jn. 2:16).
 - 2) Can be by devaluing the primary function of the Church, become entertainment centers (Eph. 4:12, 14).
2. They have fallen (Gal. 1:6; 5:4 *cf.* Eph. 2:8).
3. Need to change their mind—repent.
4. And resume the first work of a church.
5. Or else, Christ will come and remove the lampstand out of its place, of proximity to Christ.