

Book of Revelation, part 15
The Letter to the church at Ephesus

- I.** The elements for each of the seven letters to the churches (Rev. 1:19-20).
 - 1. The mystery regarding the pastor getting credit/blame.
 - 2. The mysteries regarding each church.
 - 1) Their works related to the Image.
 - 2) Their destiny.
 - 3) Promise to the overcomer.
- II.** Review of the description of the church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7).
 - 1. Proper, pompous, busy organization (vv. 2-3).
 - 2. They had sent away their first love (v. 4).
- III.** They have fallen (v. 5).
 - 1. Fallen from grace to works (Gal. 1:6-7; 5:4 *cf.* Eph. 2:8; Rom. 11:6).
 - 2. They are to repent (2 Cor. 7:8-10; Eph. 4:30).
 - 3. They are to design doing their first works—love (vv.5, 4).
- IV.** If they do not change their mind, the lampstand, *i.e.*, church will be removed from a relationship to Christ (v. 5).
 - 1. Becoming an unsaved organization.
 - 2. Appearing to be very ‘Christian’, looking religious.
- V.** However, they do disregard the Nicolaitanes.
 - 1. “Victory” over the “people”.
 - 2. Separation of clergy and the laity.
 - 3. Based upon a misunderstanding of New Testament priesthood.
 - 1) Priest means access to God.
 - 2) All believers are priests (1 Pet. 2:9; Heb. 4:15-16).
 - 3) However, not all believers are pastor-teachers nor bishops (1 Tim. 3:2; 1 Pet. 5:2 *cf.* 1 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 14:34-35).