

## ANALYSIS OF THE CHURCH (Acts 20:16-17, 28-31)

It was prophetic when Paul addressed the church of Ephesus with a severe and sobering admonition concerning his departure and the future problems that would enter the church. Later, John the Apostle was told to write a letter to this same church in hopes that they would repent and turn back to God.

### INSTRUCTION TO THE CHURCH

**Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16** As the Apostle to the Gentiles as well as taking the lead in planting the church, Paul (and Luke) gave us truths in order that we may have God's power and be successful.

**Romans 8:37** Paul gives little doubt that God expected a courageous and dominating church.

**Ephesians 6:11** In order for His church to fight and win God gave us all the material we needed.

**I Timothy 6:12** Leadership is important and there was no promises of an easy battle but we were told that the war would be won if His army would be willing to fight and trust Him for the victory.

**Ephesians 6:13** From the beginning we were instructed not to compromise but stand for the truth.

### WARNING TO THE CHURCH

**Revelation 2:1-7** In the first of seven letters Christ has instructed John to write, we have a common theme; an address to a particular church (church age), an introduction of Jesus, the state of the church, a verdict from Jesus, a command from Jesus, an exhortation to believers, a promise of reward.

**Revelation 2:1** The letter is addressed to the angel of the church representing leadership and the congregation as a whole. Jesus is the one who holds, secures the churches not the leaders of the church and His walking in the midst of them tells us that He is suppose to be the central theme of the churches.

**Revelation 2:2-3** Jesus says "I know your works." They worked hard, they pursued sound doctrinal purity, they had backbone, patience, and they stood for what was right and called wrong wrong.

**Revelation 2:4** Jesus begins with a sobering word of rebuke, "nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee..". Nevertheless means, "despite all that", nevertheless means "all the good that you are doing cannot cancel out the bad things that you are doing."

**Revelation 2:4** "...because thou hast left thy first love". Notice that they did not lose their first love, they left their first love. They once had a love that they don't have anymore. Sometime we can lose something by accident and not know where it is, but leaving something is a deliberate act and we know where to find it. This church was busy doing great things but were missing something they once had.

**Matthew 22:36-39** What love had they left? Scripture does not leave this question unanswered.

**I Corinthians 13:1-3** It may seem obvious to the readers regarding which love the church had left but it does not matter to God. If a church has left one love they cannot have love for the other either.

**Revelation 2:5** Jesus gives the church the commands to remember, to repent, and to return.

Remember your initial love for Christ, Remember how you loved His word and how you prayed.

Remember the joy of going to church and the excitement when telling others about Jesus. Repent and change the direction your going in now and get back to God. Return to the love you once had for God.

### THE COMPLACENT CHURCH

**Revelation 3:14-21** Between Ephesus and Laodicea is about two thousand years. We have reached the church with "lukewarm hearts". Rich and arrogant they dwell with programs and false doctrine and compromise. Jesus is not happy with this end time church. Notice the three hearts of scripture: 1. A burning heart **Luke 24:32**. 2. A cold heart **Matthew 24: 11-12**. 3. A lukewarm heart **Rev. 3:16**.

