

THE STATE OF THE CHURCH
"The Church at Ephesus – Part II"
Reference: **Revelation 2:4, 5** and **7**
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Each of the letters to the seven churches in ancient Asia Minor (modern western Turkey) contains four basic components: **commendation**, **condemnation**, **counsel** and a **challenge**.

COMMENDATION:

Jesus commended the Church at Ephesus on 6 different things:

- the congregations commitment to laboring for Jesus
- the congregations exercising patience (spiritual endurance)
- the congregations refusal to tolerate evil people
- the congregations identification of spiritual phonies
- the congregations hatred of the Nicolaitan deeds
- the congregations determined perseverance

CONDEMNATION:

verse four (see screen)

Ironically, the name Ephesus means "to relax or to let go of" and according to this statement the Ephesian congregants had _____ or _____ of their initial love for Jesus.

Since biblically Jesus is described in figurative language as the bridegroom and the church is His bride this relationship between Jesus and the church is analogous to marriage.

COUNSEL:

verse five (see screen)

Jesus three part advice to that congregation:

- _____
In the original language this phrase reads "*to remember and keep on remembering.*"
- _____
The Greek word translated as repent is "metanoeo" and means "a change of mind and to turn around"
Definition: Repentance means "a change of _____ resulting in someone's change of _____."
Reference: **II Corinthians 7:10** (see screen)

- _____
Repeat what you used to do at the first with _____.

Reasons we do what we do:

verse five continued (see screen)

Revelation 1:20 states that the seven lamp-stands represented those seven churches in Asia Minor. Jesus said to these Ephesians that either it repented from its loveless-ness or else the spiritual influence (i.e. its lampstand) this church once had would be removed.

Question: How did this Ephesus church react to this message? Did this congregation remember, repent and repeat?

Answer: _____

CHALLENGE:

verse seven (see screen)

Question: _____ is an over-comer?

Reference: **I John 5:4, 5** (see screen)

Answer: In one word an over-comer is a _____.

Question: This questions consists of two parts.

Part one: _____ is the tree of life?

Reference: **Genesis 3:22-24** (see screen)

Answer: This tree of life was and still is a _____ of eternal life.

Part two: _____ is this tree of life?

Answer: This tree of life is now located in _____.

Question: _____ is the paradise of God?

Answer: The paradise of God is in the _____.

Reference: **II Corinthians 12:2-4** (see screen)

Reference: **Revelation 22:1-2** (see screen)