

THE LOVELESS CHURCH: EPHESUS REV. 2:1-7

Series: *WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY TO OUR CHURCH?*

³⁷ And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND."

Matthew 22:37 (NASB)

➤ *Loving Christ is the defining characteristic of a Christian.*

1. EPHESUS: THE CENTER OF _____

¹ It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples.

¹⁰ This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

¹⁷ This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

Acts 19:1, 10, 17 (NASB)

²⁶ "You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods *at all*. ²⁷ "Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence." ²⁸ When they heard *this* and were filled with rage, they *began* crying out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" **Acts 19:26-28 (NASB)**

2. JESUS' _____ FOR EPHESUS

¹ "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: ² 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false; ³ and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

Revelation 2:1-3 (NASB)

⁶ 'Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. **Revelation 2:6 (NASB)**

3. JESUS' _____ OF EPHESUS

⁴ 'But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

Revelation 2:4 (NASB)

¹² "Be appalled, O heavens, at this, And shudder, be very desolate," declares the LORD. ¹³ "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water. **Jeremiah 2:12-13 (NASB)**

⁸ "Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. I also swore to you and entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine," declares the Lord GOD. ... ¹⁵ "But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your fame, and you poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be *willing*. **Ezekiel 16:8, 15 (NASB)**

4. JESUS' _____ FOR EPHESUS

⁵ 'Therefore **remember** from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. **Revelation 2:5 (NASB)**

²³ Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life. **Proverbs 4:23 (NASB)**

¹ Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity. ² Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity And receive *us* graciously, That we may present the fruit of our lips. ... ⁴ I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from them. **Hosea 14:1-2, 4 (NASB)**

⁷ 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.' **Revelation 2:7 (NASB)**

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:38-39 (NASB)**