

**THE HONEYMOON IS OVER (REV. 2 :1-7)
LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS**

INTRODUCTION.

- A. The church at Ephesus was a great church but something happened.
- B. The church at Ephesus is mentioned at least three times in the NT.
- C. But the people in Ephesus had lost their first love.
- D. What did Jesus have to say about the people in Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7).

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CITY OF EPHESUS.

- A. Was the greatest city in Asia Minor.
- B. Ephesus was the greatest harbor in Asia during the time of John.
- C. It was a free city (a miniature Rome).
- D. It was an assize town (a judicial center).
- E. It was the place where the yearly games were held.
- F. Was the center of the worship of Diana (Artemis).
- G. The city today is in ruins - there is no city on the ancient site.

II. THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS.

- A. Faith - faith enough to burn all of their magical books and to buck the tide of public sentiment by refusing to go any longer to the temple of Artemis (Ac. 19:15-20).
- B. Love - the church in Ephesus loved,
 - 1. God.
 - 2. Paul (Ac. 20:17-38, esp. v36-38).
 - 3. Each other (Eph. 1:15).
 - 4. The Lost.
- C. But unfortunately they were a church that was dead wrong doing right.

III. OVERVIEW OF THE TEXT.

- A. Read Rev. 2:1-7.
- B. The Commendation:
 - 1. An active church - I know thy works.
 - 2. A toiling church - I know thy toil (work + pain).
 - 3. A persistent church - I know thy patience (steadfast endurance).
 - 4. An intolerant church - Did not tolerate evil men, false teachers, or compromise.
 - 5. A consistent church - Did bear and did not grow weary.
- C. The Condemnation: They left their first love.
- D. The Warning: revival or removal. The Lord's advice: remember, repent, and repeat.
- E. The Promise: eternal life.
- F. "You can be straight as a gun barrel doctrinally and just as empty spiritually ."

IV. LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS.

- A. Remember the "Greatest Commandment" (Mt. 22:37-40).
- B. Remember the importance of Jesus (Jn. 14:6; Ac. 4:12).
- C. Repeat the earlier works out of love (Rev. 3:19).
- D. Repent of past sins (Lk. 13:3,5).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We need to recognize where true spirituality comes from: Jesus.

- B. Remember that all good things start out of our love for Jesus.
- C. The Greatest Commandment puts God and Christ in their proper perspective.
- D. Let us make sure that in our service to God we do not lose our first love.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.