

## Bible Study

### Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor (Revelation 2 – 3)

#### Letter to the Church in Ephesus. Forgetful Church

##### **Text:**

2:1: “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2:2: “‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

2:3: I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

2:4: But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

2:5: Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

2:6: Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

2:7: He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

##### **Study questions:**

1. Who do you think is the “angel” in this text?
2. How does Jesus call Himself in the Letter to the church in Ephesus? How can you explain this? What qualities of Jesus do the titles point at?
3. What does Jesus tell this church? What are the things that He complements the church about? Can you list the positive things that Jesus points out?
4. What is wrong in this church? How do you understand their problem? Is it possible to fix the problem?
5. What does Jesus tell the church to do to fix the issue?
6. What does it mean “ I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place”?
7. Who are the “Nicolaitans”?
8. What promise is given to the one who conquers / overcomes?
9. What problems of the church in Ephesus can be seen in contemporary churches? Is the problem of the Ephesus’ church relevant for today churches?
10. Can you see the problems of the congregation of Ephesus in the personal life of a Christian? If so, how can solve this kind of a problem?
11. Do you know other texts of the Bible mentioning that the problems of the church in Ephesus will appear before the second coming of Christ?
12. How can you prepare for the coming of Christ looking at the example of this church?