

JESUS' LETTER TO THE FALLEN CHURCH

Studies in the Revelation

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy,
and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Revelation 1:3

“And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the
words of the prophecy of this book.”

Revelation 22:7

THE SPIRITUAL HISTORY / LEGACY OF THE CHURCH:

The Wall of Fame:

Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow. They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, but taking leave of them and saying, “I will return to you again if God wills,” he set sail from Ephesus.

Acts 18:19-21

Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Acts 18:24-27

As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus.

Timothy 1:3a

The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains; but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me— the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day— and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus.

2 Timothy 1:16-18

But Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.

2 Timothy 4:12

THE DESCRIPTION CHRIST CHOSE FOR HIMSELF:

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who (1) holds the seven stars (where) in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this...”

Revelation 2:1

“As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are (what) the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are (what) the seven churches.”

Revelation 1:20

THE GOOD STUFF... (AD 30–100)

“I know (the good things about you)

- (1) your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and...
- (2) that you cannot endure evil men, and...
- (3) you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and...
- (4) you have perseverance and...
- (5) have endured for My name's sake, and...
- (6) have not grown weary.
- (7) Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

Revelation 2:2-3, 6

Question:

So, who or what are the Nicolaitans?

“Thus you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.”

Revelation 2:15

“Nicolaitans” means: _____

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.”

Acts 20:28-30

“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.”

Matthew 7:15-16a

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; (why) for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

2 John 7, 10-11

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Welcome every apostle on arriving, as if he were the Lord. But he must not stay beyond one day. In case of necessity, however, the next day also. If he stays three days, he is a false prophet. On departing, an apostle must not accept anything save sufficient food to carry him till his next lodging. If he asks for money, he is a false prophet.

The Didache (AD 50–70)

THE “NOT SO GOOD”...UH, MAKE THAT “BAD” STUFF:

“But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”
Revelation 2:4

Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.
Psalm 37:4

And this is love, (what) that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.
2 John 6

THE COMMAND OF JESUS TO THE “FALLEN” CHURCH:

“Remember therefore from where you have fallen...”
Revelation 2:5a

“and repent ...”
Revelation 2:5b

“and do the deeds you did at the first...”
Revelation 2:5c

“or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place— unless you repent.”
Revelation 2:5d

THE “EVERYTHING MEANS SOMETHING” PHRASE:

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
Revelation 2:7

THE “PROMISE” TO THE OVERCOMER:

“To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.”
Revelation 2:8

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”
John 16:33

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith.
1 John 5:4

And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.
Revelation 12:11

I Repent

I repent, I repent of my pursuit of America’s dream
I repent, I repent of living like I deserve anything
Of *my house, my fence, my kids, my wife*
In our suburb where we’re safe and white
I am wrong and of these things I repent

I repent, I repent of parading my liberty
I repent, I repent of paying for what I get for free
And for the way I believe that I am living right
By trading sins for others that are easier to hide
I am wrong and of these things I repent

I repent judging by a law that even I can’t keep
Of wearing righteousness like a disguise
To see through the planks in my own eyes

I repent, I repent of trading truth for false unity
I repent, I repent of confusing peace and idolatry
By caring more of what they think than what I know of what we need
By domesticating you until you look just like me
I am wrong and of these things I repent

Derek Webb

I See Things Upside Down – 2004