

# Introduction

- Ch2-3: specific message for each of the seven churches
- Entire book, including all seven messages, was to be read in each church
- 7 = completeness; these messages have value to all churches in all places in all times



# Structure of the messages

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Write to angel of church	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Description of Jesus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Encouragement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Correction	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Call to repent	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Potential punishment	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Promise to overcomers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Call to listen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Message to Ephesians

<b>Write to angel of church</b>	To the angel of the church of Ephesus
<b>Description of Jesus</b>	Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands
<b>Encouragement</b>	I know your hard work and perseverance; that you can't tolerate wicked people; that you tested and rejected false apostles; that you hate practices of Nicolaitans
<b>Correction</b>	You have forsaken your first love
<b>Call to repent</b>	Repent and do the things you did at first
<b>Potential punishment</b>	I will remove your golden lampstand from its place
<b>Promise to overcomers</b>	I will give the right to eat from the tree of life which is in the paradise of God
<b>Call to listen</b>	He who has ears, listen to what Spirit says

# Warning against false leaders

Acts 20.28-31: Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, **savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock**. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!

Fellow Ephesians, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven?



# Hear what Spirit is saying to the Church

- **Core issue** – neglecting love of God
  - **Doing a lot right** – working hard keeping out false teachers/immoral behavior; bearing up well under difficulty of being small minority in idolatrous city
  - **Neglecting the most important thing** – allowed love for God to grow cold and in danger of losing relationship w/Him
- Some of us can become too focused on what we know about God and neglect our relationship with/love for God; rooted in:
  - **Church background** – raised in environments w/heavy emphasis on knowing right things
  - **Personal history**- burned by bad teaching/theology/leadership
  - **Natural bent**- wired as thinkers so tend to focus on knowledge over relationship
  - **Spiritual gift**- prophets; everything is black/white, easy to become heresy hunter

# Maintain your first love

Ephesians 3.17-19: And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

