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## **W.A. R. Bible Study**

### **The Seven Churches of Asia Minor Bible Study**

#### **Bible Study: The Church in Ephesus Lesson 2 – Part 2 Revelation 2:1-4**

#### **Returning To Your First Love**

#### *Why Do You Love Me And Leave Me?*

### **Introduction**

The current spiritual temperature of the church has left some with questions; particularly those who have embraced the title of Christian Nationalism and place their faith under that banner. Christian Nationalism, at its very core, is a code word for White supremacy. It blends Christian identity with national pride. It asserts privilege because of cultural identity. It distorts the *love thy neighbor as thy self* gospel. It has been used to justify racism and violence. It is a compromised belief system that distorts the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are some conservative evangelicals that emphasize a truth that allows them to treat those other than them unkind. Their focus is on being right as opposed to being loving to others. How does Christian Nationalism mirror the Church of Ephesus? Where is the love?

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### **Context**

This letter to Ephesus closes with an Action Required and the Adverse Results of not adhering to that action. Christ reminds the church that She requires action to be effective. Jesus is calling the church to remember and reflect on how far they have strayed from their passion for Him and His

people. Although, they were busy doing ministry work; their hearts had grown cold and indifferent. The word *fallen* means they had become spiritually anemic. Jesus calls the church to change directions and repent.

The adverse result of not repenting was for Christ to remove the candlesticks which represents the church's witness, influence, and presence of being light in dark places in the world. The church would have no spiritual power to make an impact because it would be void of the Holy Spirit. It would literally be a dead church, *the chosen frozen*, a desert place.

This is what Christ is saying to the Church of All Ages;

*5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

*6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

*7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

### **The Action Required and The Adverse Results**

**Verse 5** - *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

- Make sure your heart is right not just rite.

- Remember, Return and Repent, and do the things you did at first by loving me and loving people. Reignite the passion and love for Christ, not just the knowledge of Him.
- Love people again. Don't just stand in judgement of their lifestyles or choices.
- Make sure your worship is genuine and that you are filled with the Holy Spirit.
- If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

### **The Closing Salutations**

**Verses 6-7** - *But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

- But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Jesus did not say that they hated the Nicolaitans but their deeds were hated. Jesus condemned the teachings of the Nicolaitans who according to early church history are described as a heretical sect that promoted a compromised version of Christianity. They attempted to blend pagan practices with

Christianity and compromise it's principals by eating meat sacrificed to idols and practicing sexual immorality. They abused the *Doctrine of Grace* by believing that grace gave you free license to sin as you pleased.

- *Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the paradise of God.*

(NIV). *The Tree of Life* is the divine symbol of eternal life. God placed the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden as mentioned in Genesis 2 and 3. We were all forbidden to eat from it less we sin and forever live in a fallen state as mentioned in **Genesis 3:22** - *And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.* However, the promise to overcomers, those who remain faithful and reject the compromise of this world, is that they would be restored to the Tree of Life, free from sin and in fellowship fully with God.

## **Bible Question**

1. What actions are required of the church?
2. What are the consequences for not following the divine directive?
3. What does this church have in their favor?
4. Who are the Nicolaitans and why does God hate their deeds?
5. What's so good about eating from the tree of life?

## **Keeping It Real**

1. What does the Church of Ephesus tell us in 2025 about the importance of doctrinal faithfulness and perseverance in ministry?
2. How has the Church of Jesus Christ compromised with the world today?
3. We believe in the biblical blueprint of family; meaning the traditional family structure of man and woman uniting and raising children according to the scriptures. How do we show love, yet remain truthful to those who embrace alternative lifestyles?
4. What pillar of F.O.O.M.M. does this lesson speak to?