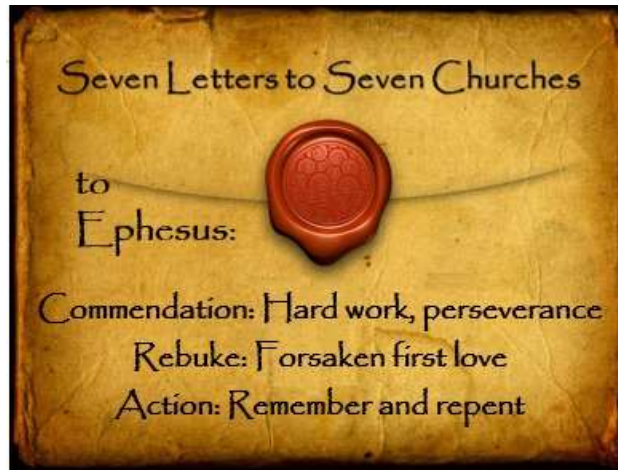


CCCN Bible Study End Times Notes – Pastor John Stackhouse

Revelation 2 – Letter to the church in Ephesus:

2:2 - About fifteen years later than John's writing of Revelation, Ignatius (Bishop of Antioch) wrote to the church of Ephesus and commended them for refusing to give a "home" to any heresy (*To the Ephesians* 6, 7, 9, 16). Thyatira had failed (2:20ff.), but the Ephesians had won the victory over false teachers. They heeded Paul's earlier warning (Acts 20:28-30).



2:4 - Paul's exhortation to the Ephesian elders to "help the weak" (Acts 20:35) and the warm commendation he gives them in their early years for their fervent love of one another (Eph. 1:15) may lend support to this view.

"First" (*prōtos*) love would suggest that they still loved, but with a quality and intensity unlike that of their initial love.

"How many churches today stand at this same crossroads"? Do we sense the importance to Christ of not only honoring his name by our true confession but also reflecting his life by our loving relationship to others?"

2:6 - to paraphrase the commentary - The Nicolaitans whom the members of the church hate, are a group within the churches of that claim to have insight into the divine or, more probably, into the demonic. They express their freedom in immoral behavior, which allows them to become part of their mixed up pagan society and to participate in the Roman civil religion"

2:7 - the commentary states, "In the apocalyptic book the Testament of Levi it is promised that God (or Messiah) "shall open the gates of Paradise, and shall remove the threatening sword against Adam, and he shall give the saints to eat from the tree of life, and the spirit of holiness shall be on them" (18:10-11)."