



GRACE  
BREVARD

To Enjoy and Express the Freeing Radical Love of Jesus

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LAODICEA  
PERGAMUM



SARDIS  
SMYRNA



THE  
**LETTERS**  
OF REVELATION  
EMPIRES AT WAR

REVELATION 2:1-7  
*TRUE LOVE*  
SEPTEMBER 25

<sup>4</sup> But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.



# Turkey

GALATIA

Rev 2:1-7

GREECE

Istanbul

PERGAMUM

THYATIRA

SMYRNA

SARDIS

PHILADELPHIA

EPHESUS

LAODICEA

PATMOS

GREECE

Israel

# Basic Letter Outline

- Unique description of Jesus
- Individualized Encouragement
- Individualized Correction and Repentance (if needed)
- "He who has an ear, let him hear..." + their reward

All of these individualized letters would be read by all the churches

Each has multiple "Easter Eggs" that bring the letter to life (ah-ha moments)

## Revelation 2

<sup>1</sup> “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.

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup> But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

<sup>7</sup> 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.’

# Who Was Ephesus



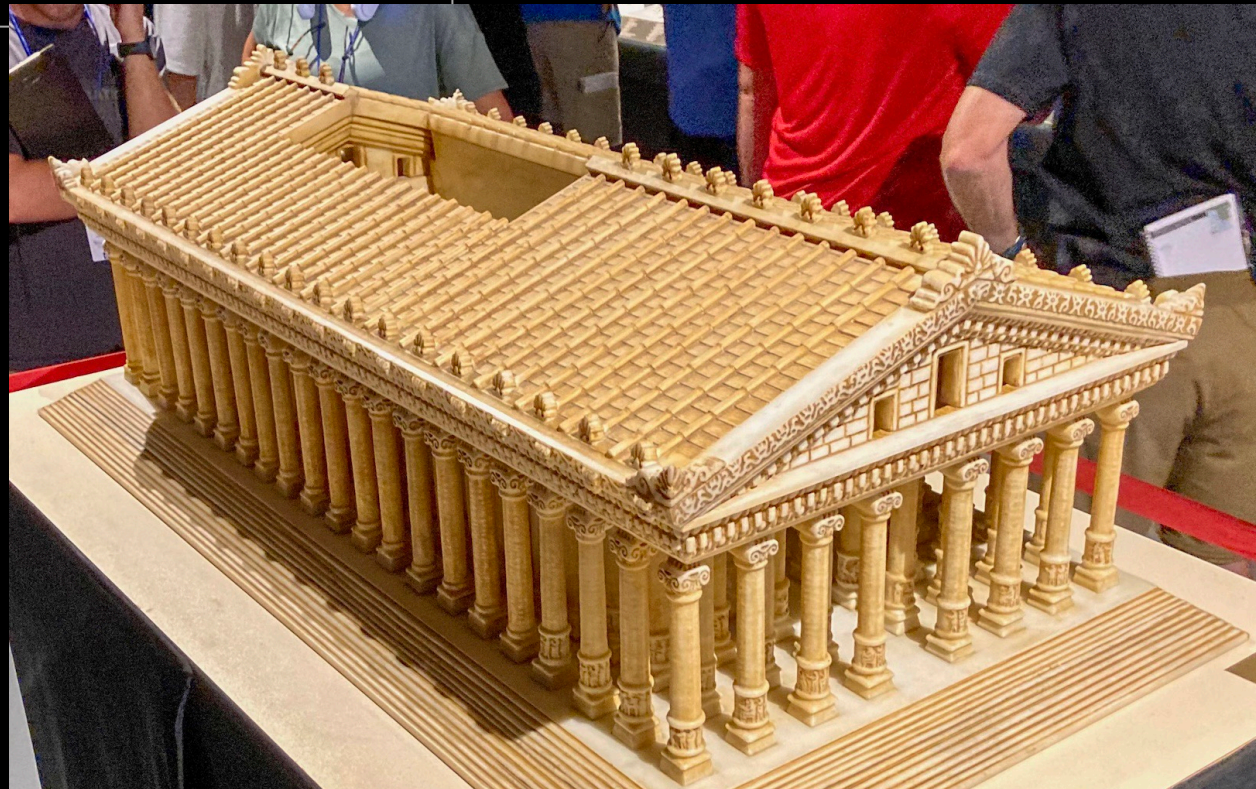
Hedrian; Amazon Queen Ephesia

- Key Roman Province in Asia Minor  
- Imperial Worship



22 ft tall statue of Emperor Domitian

- Key Roman Province in Asia Minor
  - Imperial Worship
- Greek God Worship
  - Artemis Temple



4x Bigger than Parthenon  
One of the 7 wonders of the world



- Key Roman Province in Asia Minor
  - Imperial Worship
- Greek God Worship
  - Artemis Temple
  - Birthplace; “Great is Artemis”



Acts 19

<sup>34</sup> But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, ***“Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”***

<sup>35</sup> And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, “Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky?”

- Key Roman Province in Asia Minor
  - Imperial Worship
- Greek God Worship
  - Artemis Temple
  - Birthplace; “Great is Artemis”
- Slave Trade (abandoned babies)



- Key Roman Province in Asia Minor
  - Imperial Worship
- Greek God Worship
  - Artemis Temple
  - Birthplace; “Great is Artemis”
- Slave Trade (abandoned babies)
- Athletic (Nike)



Utterly surrounded in a very powerful Political and Pagan Culture



# The Ephesian Church

<sup>2</sup> 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.

- Strong Theology



# The Ephesian Church

<sup>3</sup> I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake,  
and you have not grown weary.

- Strong Theology
- Loving, Serving, Diverse Church



# The Ephesian Church

<sup>3</sup> I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

- Strong Theology
- Loving, Serving, Diverse Church
- Moral-ish
  - Brothels, magic & adoptions

Ephesians 4:19

They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.



# The Ephesian Church

<sup>3</sup> I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

- Strong Theology
- Loving, Serving, Diverse Church
- Moral-ish
  - Brothels, magic & adoptions



Acts 19:19

And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.



Utterly surrounded in a very powerful Political and Pagan Culture  
Yet deeply committed to Scripture, Truth and Morality



# Jesus' Letter to the Ephesian Church

## The Unique Jesus

<sup>1</sup> “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. <sup>2</sup> I know your works,

# Jesus' Letter to the Ephesian Church

## The Unique Jesus

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**Right Hand**  
Absolute Power and Authority



# Jesus' Letter to the Ephesian Church

## The Unique Jesus

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**Walks Among the 7 Lampstands**  
Personal and Intimate Presence

1:13 and in the midst of the (seven) lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.

# Jesus' Letter to the Ephesian Church

## The Unique Jesus

<sup>1</sup> "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. <sup>2</sup> I know your works,

**I know....**  
Personal and Intimate Knowledge



# Jesus' Letter to the Ephesian Church

## What Jesus Knows, part 1

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

**Belief and Behavior**

**Patient Endurance**  
(Hypomone')

# Jesus' Letter to the Ephesian Church

## What Jesus Knows, part 2

<sup>4</sup> But I have this against you,  
that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

Belief.  
Behavior.  
Heart.

Forgot the Who & the Why  
Motivation Matters

I Am Ephesian

The Compromise Monster

Doing Church instead of Being Church



# I Am Ephesian

Jesus hasn't called us into a transaction but a beloved relationship

Would Jesus rather you have  
excellent theology,  
excellent behavior or  
excellent relationship?

# I Am Ephesian

## Jesus' Solution

<sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.

Remember

Repent

Repeat

# I Am Ephesian

## Jesus' Solution

<sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.

Remember

Repent

Repeat

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

# I Am Ephesian

What does my prayer life look like?

When I fall, am I more concerned about the sin or the relational offense?

Am I more concerned with knowing about God or knowing God?

# I Am Ephesian



The more we have our hearts connected to Jesus  
The stronger our theology will be  
and the straighter our following will become

# I Am Ephesian

## Jesus' Promise



<sup>7</sup> 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.'

# I Am Ephesian

## Jesus' Promise

### Genesis 2:9

<sup>9</sup> And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life** was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

### Revelation 22

<sup>1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb  
<sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the **tree of life** with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Hebrews 12:3

**Consider** him who **endured** from sinners such hostility against himself,  
so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Endured = Hypomone'

Consider = "Analogia"

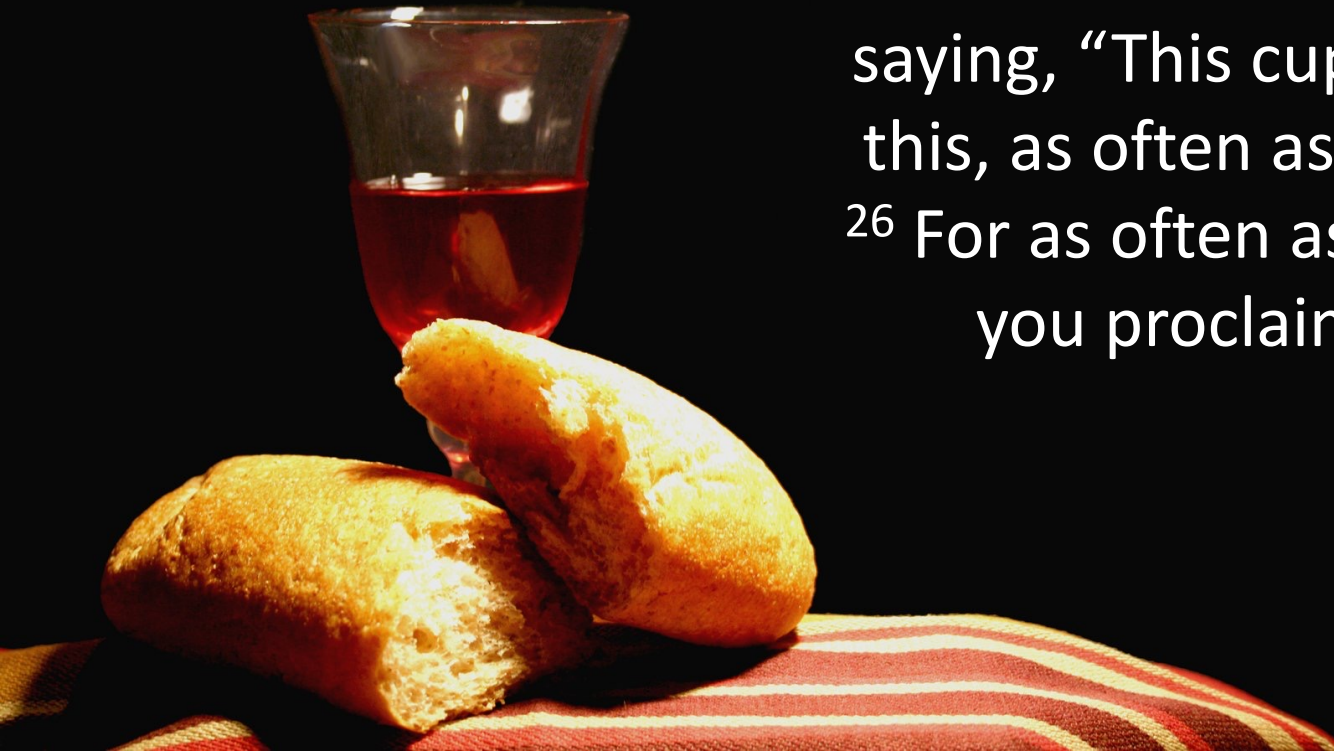


## 1 Corinthians 11:23

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

<sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.



# Benediction

*A 4000 years old tradition of giving a corporate blessing over God's people.*

## Psalm 103

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

<sup>14</sup> For he knows our frame;  
he remembers that we are dust.