

JOHN'S VISION OF JESUS

Revelation 1:9 – 2:7

Jesus the Judge (1:9-20)

- Hair, white as wool, as snow...
 - ↳ His eternal wisdom (Dan. 7:9; Mic. 5:2).
 - ↳ His purity/holiness.
- Eyes, like a flame of fire...
 - ↳ His penetrating vision.
- Feet, like burnished bronze...
 - ↳ His enduring the divine judgment for sin on the cross.
- Voice, like the roar of many waters...
 - ↳ His absolute voice of authority.
- Right hand, He held seven stars...
 - ↳ His strong and protective authority over the angels of the seven churches.
- Mouth, from it came a sharp two-edged sword...
 - ↳ His word will judge and punish His enemies (Jn. 12:44-50).
- Face, like the sun shining in full strength...
 - ↳ His glory and deity.

Judgment Begins with His Church (1:13)

The letters to the seven churches were meant to *comfort, encourage, challenge* and *instruct* the historical churches to whom the letters were written as well as all churches throughout the church age – "...let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (pl.)"

Jesus' Judgment of the Church of Ephesians (2:1-7)

❖ Commendation (2:2-3, 6)

- ✓ They worked hard in the ministries of the church.
- ✓ They did not tolerate unethical behavior.
- ✓ They were spiritually discerning; putting false apostles to the test.
- ✓ They were persevering in the Faith in the midst of persecution.
- ✓ They hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans.

Nicolaitans may have been a group that advocated sexual immorality in the form of "free love". Or, it may have been a movement that exalted clergy over the laity since the word "Nicolaitans" literally means "laity-conqueror".

☒ Critique (2:4)

- ✓ They had abandoned the love they had at first.

Laboring for the Lord gradually replaced *loving* the Lord.

✚ Counsel (2:5)

- ✓ **Remember:** Jesus was calling them to reflect on what their relationship was like in the beginning when they walked with Him in intimacy and love.
- ✓ **Repent:** Jesus called them to change their direction, confess their sin and return to a loving relationship with Him.
- ✓ **Repeat:** Jesus directed the Ephesians to repeat the things they did at the first. These things are not detailed, but they would include the practices and spiritual disciplines that foster intimate fellowship and love for Jesus. These would include worship, Scripture study and meditation, prayer, fellowship with other believers etc.

⊖ Chastisement (2:5c)

Jesus warned He would remove their lampstand from its place. *Left love* means *lost light*.

✘ To the Overcomers (2:7)

Revelation 22:1-5 establishes the Tree of Life as literal. To eat from the Tree of Life is not a reference to salvation, but to eat is a special reward for those believers who overcome the temptations, trials and obstacles of this life through a walk of faith and obedience.