

# The Churches of Revelation: Jesus Speaks His Mind

*Pt. 1-First Things First*

May 17, 2009

## The Church at Ephesus

**Revelation 2:1** "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands:

### Jesus commends the Church

**Revelation 2:2-3, 6** "I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. You have patiently suffered for me without quitting... But this is in your favor: You hate the evil deeds of the Nicolaitans, just as I do.

### Jesus says don't hide behind a busy Christian life...

**Revelation 2:4-6** "But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first! *Look how far you have fallen!* Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.

### Jesus challenges the Church

**Revelation 2:7** "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God.

**Genesis 3:24** After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

### Steps to return to your first love:

**Philippians 3:8** Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ

**Acts 3:19** "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

**James 4:7-10** So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

### How to be spiritually healthy?

- Regularly participating in personal and corporate worship
- Being connected in a relational small group Bible study
- Serving by using your spiritual gifts in Holy Spirit led ministry

*Jesus is most concerned with what is in 1<sup>ST</sup>  
place in your life!...*

*What's in 1<sup>st</sup> place in your life?*