

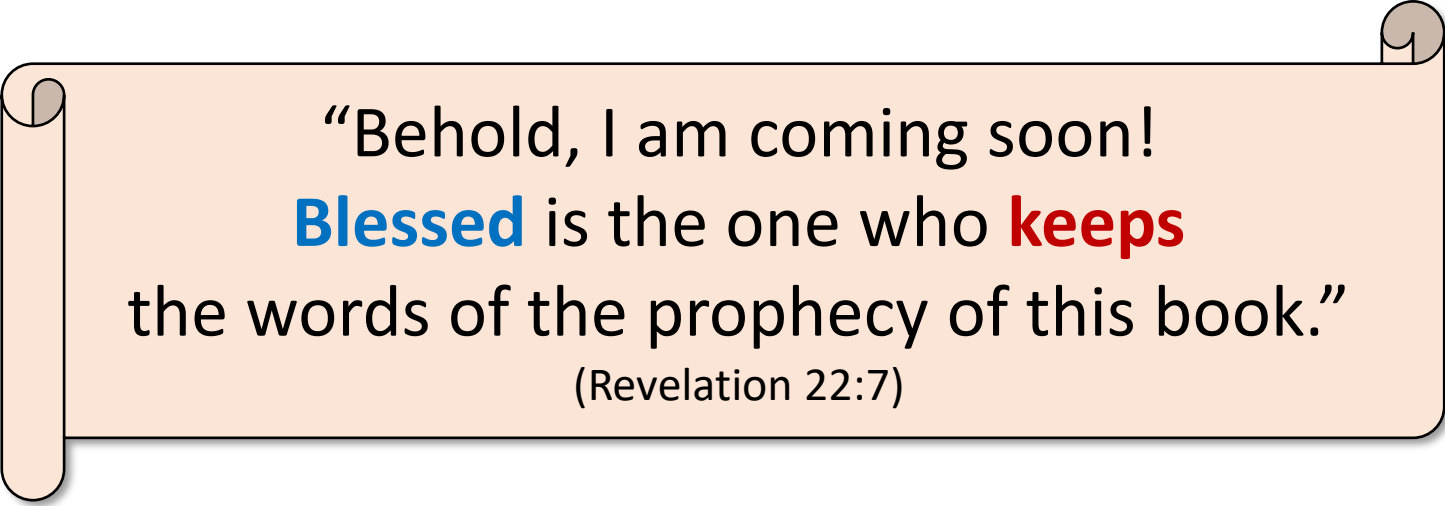


The

Revelation of **Jesus Christ**

An overview

3. The Lord's message to Ephesus



“Behold, I am coming soon!
Blessed is the one who **keeps**
the words of the prophecy of this book.”

(Revelation 22:7)

Overview of the first section

Chapter 1

- Introduction
- The first vision – Christ in the midst of the lampstands

Chapters 2 & 3

- The Lord's messages to the seven churches

Chapters 4 & 5

- All heaven worships God upon His throne
- The Lamb takes the sealed scroll and is worshipped

Chapters 6 & 7 and 8:1

- The scroll's seven seals are opened



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The Lord's messages to the seven churches

"Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches..."

(Revelation 1:11)



“Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches...”

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos



Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

The form of each message

- To the angel/messenger of the church in...
- These things says He who... 
- **I know your works...**
- Commendation and/or correction, and guidance
- The call to hear what is said **to the churches** 
- **A promise** to **each one** who overcomes the challenges being faced

Individual responsibility

EPHESUS in history

Ephesus was very **prosperous** in the first century.

It was a **major centre of commerce**.

It was famous for the **Temple of Artemis**.



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Ephesus was destroyed by the Goths in 262 AD.

Despite some rebuilding the city's position and importance declined as **its harbour silted up**.



EPHESUS in the New Testament

➤ Acts 18

- Paul visited Ephesus with Priscilla and Aquila on his 2nd journey (c. 52 AD).
- Apollos later visited Ephesus and was further taught by Priscilla and Aquila.

➤ Acts 19

- Paul returned to Ephesus on his 3rd journey and **stayed about three years** (c. 54 AD).
- The Lord did extraordinary miracles, and believers burned valuable books on magic.
- After a riot in the city led by idol makers, Paul travelled west into Macedonia (c. 57 AD).

➤ Acts 20

- On his way to Jerusalem, Paul called for the elders in Ephesus to meet him in Miletus.
- He encouraged and warned them, knowing they would see him no more (c. 58 AD).

➤ An amazing letter

- Paul wrote “Ephesians” to the church in Ephesus while a prisoner in Rome (c. 62 AD).

Paul's warning to the elders in Ephesus

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock...

...after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you...

...and from among your own selves
will arise men speaking twisted things,
to draw away the disciples after them.

Therefore be alert,
remembering that for three years
I did not cease night or day to admonish
every one with tears.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

(see Acts 20:17-38)



Paul's letter from Rome to Ephesus

Therefore I also, after I heard of
your faith in the Lord Jesus
and **your love** for all the saints...
(Ephesians 1:15-16)

For this reason I bow my knees...
that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith
—that you, **being rooted and grounded in love...**
(See Ephesians 3:14-19)

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.
And **walk in love**, as Christ loved us
and gave Himself for us...
(Ephesians 5:1-2)



The **Revelation** of **Jesus Christ**

Ephesus:

- A pagan and prosperous city
- The church began well through Paul and others
- They were warned of the dangers ahead
- They were encouraged to walk in love

The Lord's message to Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These things says He who holds **the seven stars** in His right hand, who **walks** in the midst of the **seven golden lampstands**...

He is the head
of the Church

(Revelation 2:1)

His heart is for
His Church

I know your works...



I know your works,
your **toil** and your **patient endurance**,
and how you cannot bear with those who are evil,
and have tested those who call themselves apostles
and are not, and found them to be false.

I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up
for My name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

(Revelation 2:2-3)

I know your works...

Nevertheless I have this against you,
that you have left your **first love**.

(Revelation 2:4)

The love you had at first.
(Acts 19:17-20,
Acts 20:36-38)

I know your works...

If I speak with the tongue of angels...
If I have the gift of prophecy...
If I be generous to the poor...

NOTHING
HAVE NOT LOVE...

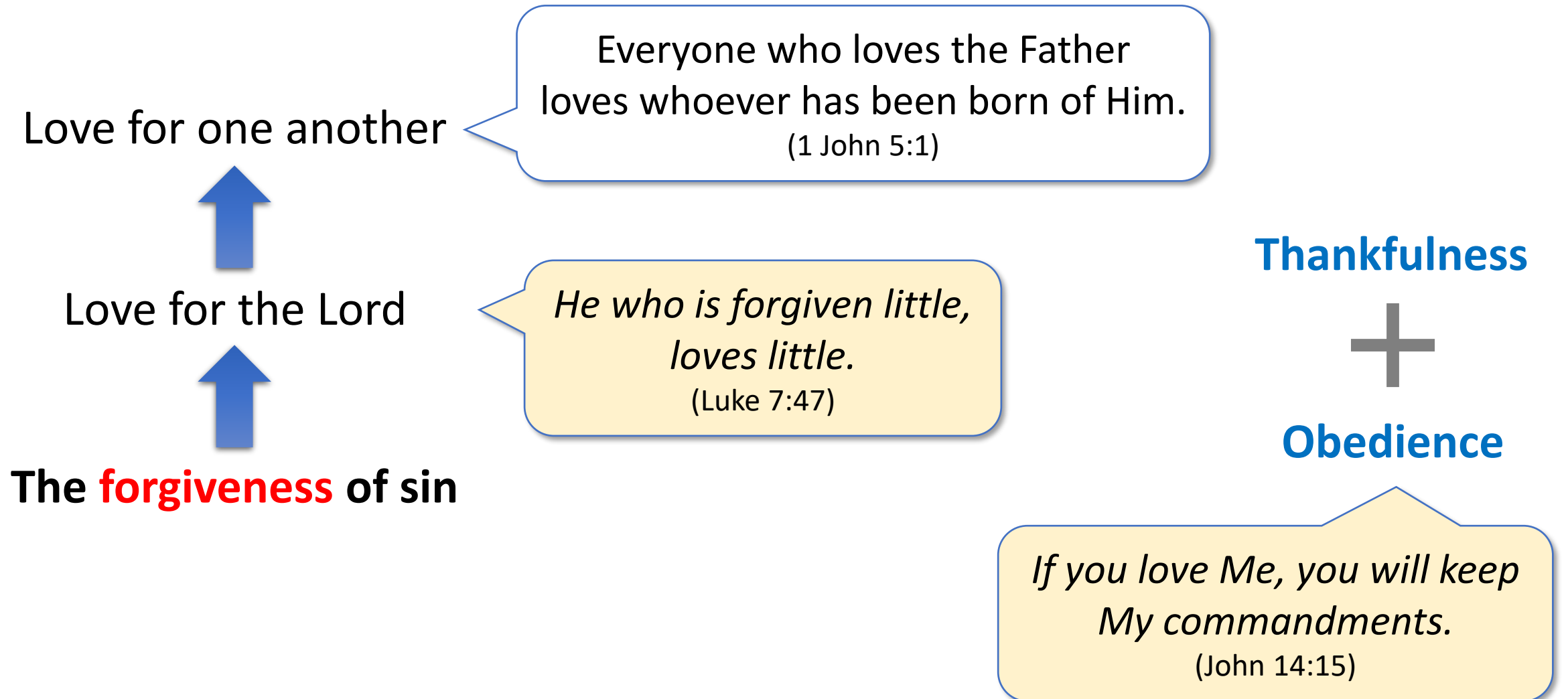
(See 1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

*A new **commandment** I give to you, that you **love one another**:
just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

*By this all people will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another.*

(John 13:34-35)

Love one another Yes, but how?



Therefore...

1

Remember therefore from where you have fallen;

2

repent, and **do the works** you did at first.

(Revelation 2:5)

3

Change direction

Love in action

There are consequences...

If not, I will come to you
and remove your lampstand
from its place,
unless you repent.

(Revelation 2:5)

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and remove your lampstand
from its place,
unless you repent.

(Revelation 2:5)

I know your works...

A compound word from *nikos* (to conquer or subdue) and *laos* (the people).
An elite group ruling over ordinary believers?

Yet this you have:

you hate the works of the Nicolaitans,
which I also hate.

(Revelation 2:6)

Pay attention!

He who has an ear,
let him hear what **the Spirit says to the churches.**
(Revelation 2:7)

Pay attention!

He who has an ear,
let him **hear what the Spirit**
says to the churches.

(Revelation 2:7)

A wonderful promise...

Conquers, prevails,
gets the victory

Fellowship,
shared Life

To the one who overcomes
I will give to eat from **the tree of life**,
which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

(Revelation 2:7)

With the Lord

The **Revelation** of **Jesus Christ**

Revelation 2:1-7

OK, what have we seen?

- ✓ Ephesus was **an ungodly city** and quite prosperous
- ✓ The believers had received a lot of **excellent teaching**
- ✓ They were active and persevering, but they had **become cold**
- ✓ The Lord commanded repentance and to return to their **first works**
- ✓ He promised Himself in love and fellowship **to any who heeded His call**

The **Revelation** of **Jesus Christ**

Next stop:

To the angel of the church of Smyrna write...

(Revelation 2:8)

