

~~Context~~

The letter was TO a church but we see angel. Angel means messenger.

To the Church in Ephesus

2 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. **2** I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. **3** You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

persevered twice

SEAS Rev 24:2

~~What are we doing here?~~
But we know it's Christ
Right hand is Power & Authority (Ps 20:16)

persevered in hard work
stood steadfast from sin & discipline correctly (MAT 18:15-20; 1 Cor 5)
called out false prophets by testing only known through the word (Act 17:14)
persevered in tribulation FOR Christ's name sake (1 Peter 2:20; 1 Peter 4:14; MAT 5:11)

Love for God love for ~~brothers~~ brothers
with all the good they were doing (avoiding sin, study scripture, hard work, persevere)
this was a far fall

Counter to "once saved always saved"
He will remove "church" status
Nicolaitans = Gnosticism & Manichaeism
Two equal warring powers - doesn't matter what flesh does as long as spirit saved
MAT 13:14-15
LETTER TO EPHESUS but ALL READ & UNDERSTAND (Rev 1:3)
something we do

Context of Ephesus: had temple of Artemis (Acts 19:23-35) which led to uproar against Paul (Acts 19:23-41) -

- 1 "stars in hand" - stars = ~~good~~ teachers (Rev 1:20) - faithful (Daniel 12:3) - false
- "wandering stars" Jude 13. Christ has the leaders in his hand
- 2 lampstand = church (Rev 1:20). He comes as the one who has control of leaders & churches

if we do not love God we do not go. it does not matter what we are doing - "I never knew you"