

The Seven Churches of Asia

Rev. 2 & 3



Letters to the 7 Churches

Lenten Lunch – 3/1/2022

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Revelation 2 & 3 in context

- Who wrote the book?
- Where was it written?
- To whom was it written?

- Who speaks/reveals these things?
- How is He described?
- What is the difference between symbolic and pictorial language?

Revelation 2:1-7

“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. ²“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. ³I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵Remember 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. ⁶Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷He 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.’

Gold on the surface

- Where have we seen this description of Christ in v. 1? What does it teach us?
- What is commended by Jesus about the church in Ephesus?
- Why should we receive Christ's criticism like gold, *i.e.*, treasure it?
- What is the admonition and promise at the end? Why might we tend to skip the one and cling to the other?

Digging a little deeper

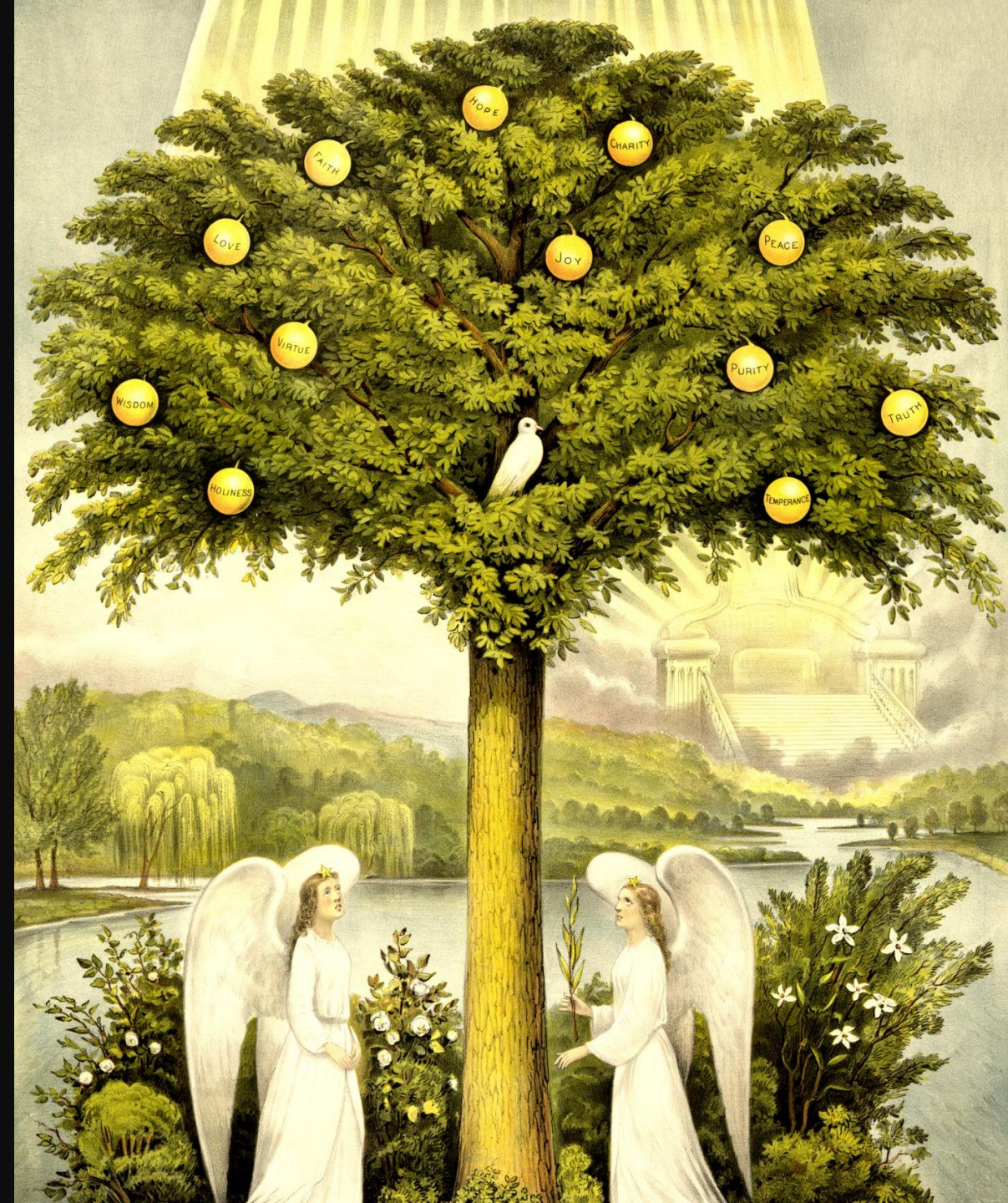
Who do you allow to speak truth into your life? Where might we (or others around us) be getting counsel about how to live?

What has the church abandoned here?
What are the consequences Christ warns will come unless they change?

Might we need to hear and heed this complaint of “discernment without love”; to see the danger of “loveless orthodoxy”?

Moving forward by faith this Lent

- † What is the way forward according to v. 5?
 - † Where can we focus our prayers for ourselves and our church during Lent? Is there any habit or behavior we need to give up?
 - † Who is with us to help us?
 - † How does the promise of v. 7 keep us moving forward?
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A Closing Prayer

2:1–7 — Lord, visit our church. We have heard your message to the churches at Ephesus; it is a message to us also. Oh! Do not let any of us lose our first love. Let not our church grow cold and dead. We are not, we fear, what once we were. Lord, revive us! All our help must come from you. Give back to the church its love, its confidence, its holy daring, its consecration, its liberality, its holiness. Give back all it ever had and give it much more. Take every member and wash his feet, sweet Lord, most tenderly, and set us with clean feet in a clean road, with a clean heart to guide them, and do bless us as you are wont to do after a divine fashion.

- Charles Spurgeon

ESV Bibles. ESV Prayer Bible (pp. 2931-2932). Crossway. Kindle Edition.