

Left your First Love (Rev 2:1-7)

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Introduction

The City of Ephesus

History of Christianity in Ephesus

First visit to Ephesus (Acts 18:19ff) Mid-September A.D. 52

Second visit to Ephesus (Acts 19:1–20:1) Sept 1, A.D. 53–early May 56
Ministry at the synagogue (3 months) and at the school of Tyrannus (etc.)

Riot at the theater of Ephesus (Acts 19:21ff) early May A.D. 56

The city clerk quiets things down (Acts 19:35ff)
Paul left Ephesus early May A.D. 56

Met the Ephesian elders at Miletus (Acts 20:16-38) May 1-3, A.D. 57

Paul wrote Ephesians A.D. 61

John headquartered there, but had time away (when Paul was there)

Exposition

Jesus directed John to write to the messenger (teaching elder) of the Ephesian church (2:1)
Meaning of *angel*

Why do I call this person a teaching elder? 1 Timothy 5:17

Elders who rule well worthy of double honorarium, esp. those laboring in word & teaching.
1-4 rank the most (to the least) worthy of double honorarium (per 1 Tim 5:17)

	Elders who rule well	Elders who do not rule well
Elders who labor in the word & teaching	1	3
Elders who don't labor in the word & teaching	2	4

Under the single-elder (Baptist) model, #2 and #3 seem reversed.

Under the plural-elder (Presbyterian) model, #2 and #3 are fine.

Evaluation of the teaching elder at Ephesus by Jesus (2:1-6)

The primary evaluation is of the teaching elder, but secondarily it is of the church also

General exhortation to all the churches (2:7a)

Promise to the overcomer (2:7b)

Conclusion