

Remain in First Love!

Revelation 2:1-7

Roman Province of Asia



Usage of number 7 in the Revelation

- Seven Spirits of God (**1:5**)
- Seven golden lampstands (**1:12, 20**) – **churches**
- Seven stars (**1:20**) – **angels of the churches**
- seven churches (**1:11**)
- seven seals (**6:1**)
- seven trumpets (**8:2**) ...

The Seven Churches of Revelation

	Commendation	Criticism	Instruction	Promise
Ephesus (2:1-7)	Rejects evil, doctrinal vigilance, perseveres, has patience	Lost first Love	Do the works you did at first	The tree of life
Smyrna (2:8–11)	Gracefully bears suffering	None	Be faithful until death	The crown of life
Pergamos (2:12-17)	Keeps the faith of Christ	Tolerated immorality, idolatry, and heresies	Repent	Hidden manna and a stone with a new name

The Seven Churches of Revelation

	Commendation	Criticism	Instruction	Promise
Thyatira (2:18–29)	Love, service, faith, patience is greater than at first	Tolerates cult of idolatry and immorality	Judgment coming; keep the faith	Rule over nations & receive morning star
Sardis (3:1-6)	Some have kept the faith	A dead church	Repent; strengthen what remains	Faithful honored and clothed in white
Philadelphia (3:7–13)	Perseveres in the faith	None	Keep the faith	A place in God's presence, a new name, and the New Jerusalem
Laodicea (3:14–22)	None	Indifferent	Be zealous and repent	Share Christ's throne

Issues facing different churches

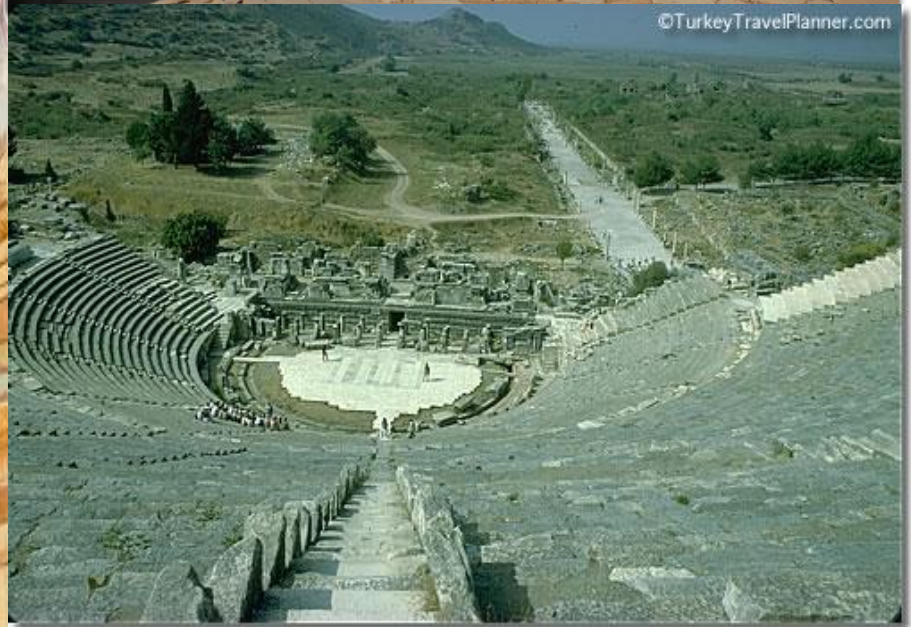
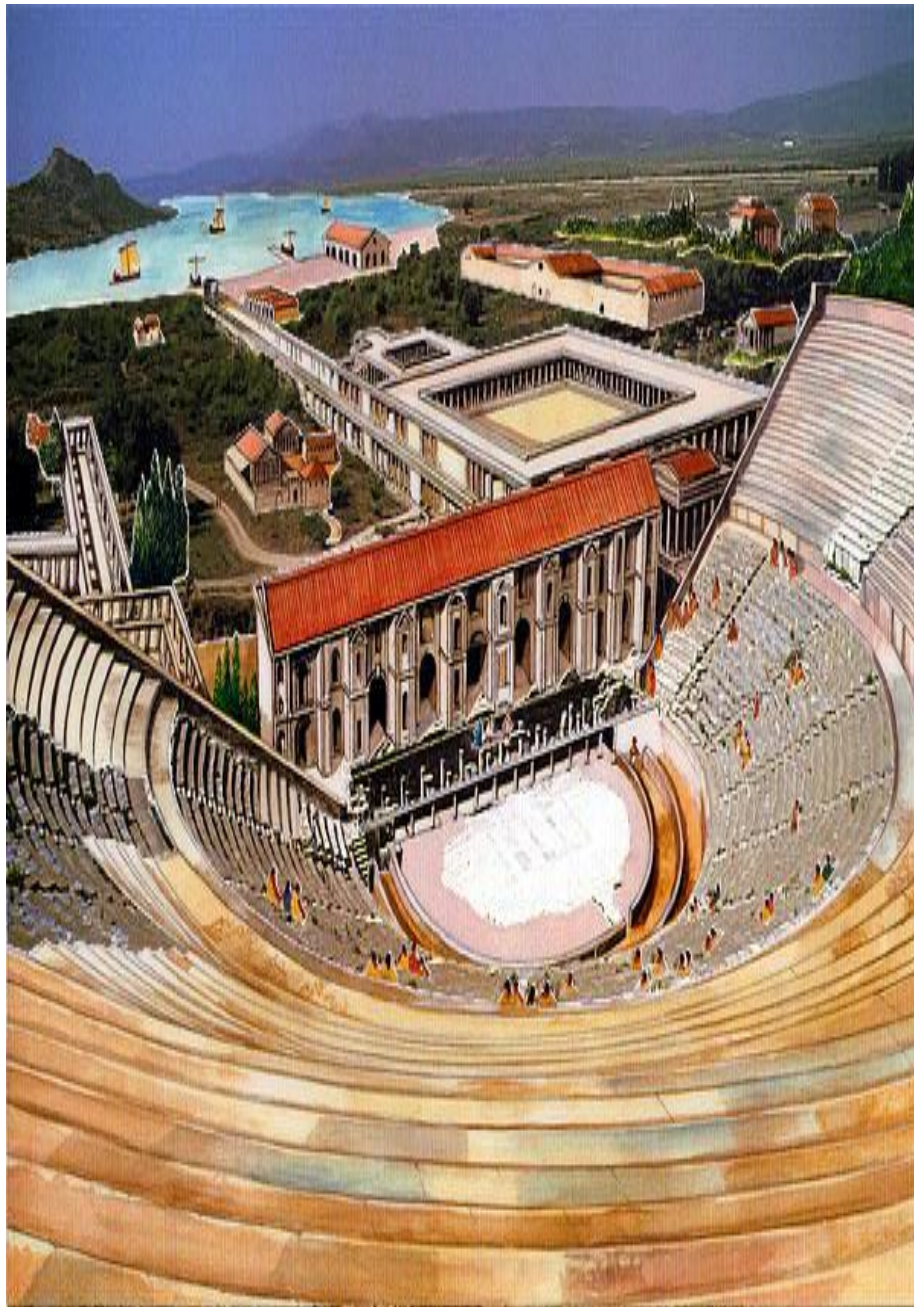
- **Ephesus:** The church that had abandoned its first love for Christ (**2:4**).
- **Smyrna:** The church that would face severe persecution (**2:10**).
- **Pergamum:** The church that needed to repent of sin (**2:16**).
- **Thyatira:** The church whose false prophetess was leading people astray (**2:20**).
- **Sardis:** The sleeping church that needed to wake up (**3:2**).
- **Philadelphia:** The church that had patiently persevered (**3:10**).
- **Laodicea:** The church with lukewarm faith (**3:16**).

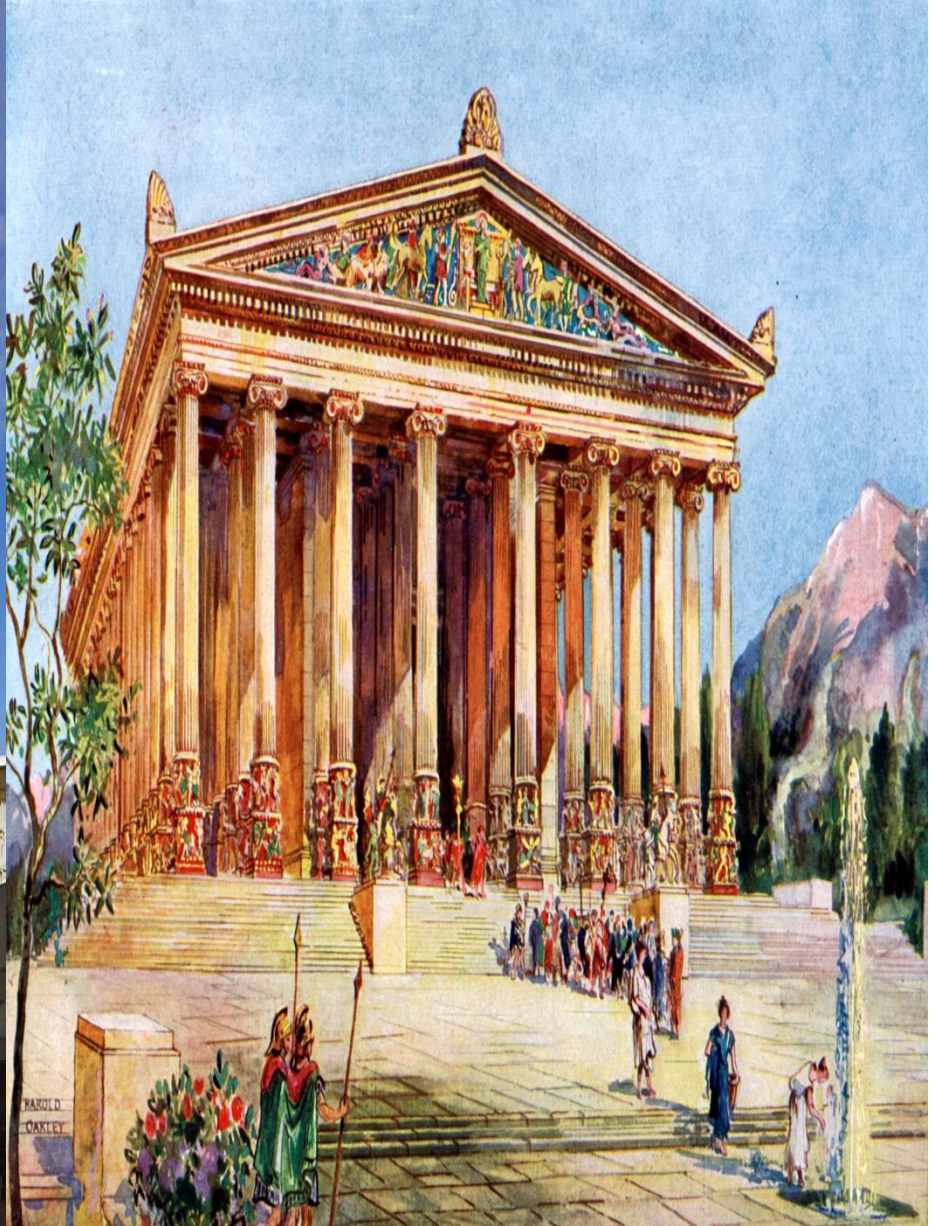
Church belongs to Christ

- He inspected and corrected its attitudes and conducts
 - He held it together
- Its significance was seen through His activity

17-18 Jesus came back, “God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn’t get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I’m going to tell you who you are, *really* are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

Matthew 16:17-18 (NLT)







	Commendation	Criticism	Instruction	Promise
Ephesus (2:1-7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rejects evil • doctrinal vigilance • perseveres has • patience 	Lost first Love	Do the works you did at first	The tree of life

² “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem:

“This is what the LORD says:

““I remember the devotion of your youth,
how as a bride you loved me
and followed me through the wilderness,
through a land not sown.

⁵ This is what the LORD says:

“What fault did your ancestors find in me,
that **they strayed so far** from me?

They followed worthless idols
and became worthless themselves.

Jeremiah 2:2,5

13 “My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me,
the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Jeremiah 2:13

¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:12-14

What can a church love more than Jesus?

- Can love its building more than it loves Jesus
- Can love its tradition more than it loves Jesus
- Can love its history more than it loves Jesus
- Can love the fellowship of believers more than it loves Jesus
- Can love its programs, evangelism, mission, or even the lost more than it loves Jesus