

THE EPHESIAN TRAGEDY



Ephesians 2:8–10 (KJV) — 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 1:7 (KJV) — 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

**Ephesians 1:9 (KJV) — 9 Having made known unto us the
mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he
hath purposed in himself:**

Ephesians 3:17–19 (KJV) — 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Ephesians 4:5–6 (KJV) — 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 4:11–14 (KJV) — 11 And he gave some, apostles;
and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors
and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work
of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till
we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of
the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the
stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no
more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every
wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning
craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

**Ephesians 4:26–27 (KJV) — 26 Be ye angry, and sin not:
let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither
give place to the devil.**

Ephesians 5:25 (KJV) — 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Ephesians 6:4 (KJV) — 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

**Ephesians 6:11 (KJV) — 11 Put on the whole
armour of God, that ye may be able to stand
against the wiles of the devil.**

This church had been highly favored. . . . In the same city was the temple of Diana, which, in point of grandeur, was one of the marvels of the world. The Ephesian church met with great opposition, and some of the early Christians suffered persecution; . . .

21LtMs, Ms 11, 1906, par. 15

At the first the experience of the church of Ephesus was marked with childlike simplicity and fervor. A lively, earnest, heartfelt love for Christ was expressed. The believers rejoiced in the love of God because Christ was in their hearts as an abiding presence. The praise of God was on their lips, and their attitude of thanksgiving was in accord with the thanksgiving of the heavenly family. 6T 421.2

The world took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. Sinful men, repentant, pardoned, cleansed, and sanctified, were brought into partnership with God through His Son. The believers sought earnestly to receive and obey every word of God. Filled with love for their Redeemer, they sought as their highest aim to win souls to Him. They did not think of hoarding the precious treasure of the grace of Christ. They felt the importance of their calling, and, weighted with the message, Peace on earth, good will to men, they burned with desire to carry the glad tidings to the earth's remotest bounds. 6T 421.3

The members of the church were united in sentiment and action. Love for Christ was the golden chain that bound them together.

They followed on to know the Lord more and still more perfectly, and brightness and comfort and peace were revealed in their lives. They visited the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and kept themselves unspotted from the world. A failure to do this would, in their view, have been a contradiction of their profession and a denial of their Redeemer. 6T 421.4

**Ephesians 1:15–16 (KJV) — 15 Wherefore I also, after I
heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the
saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making
mention of you in my prayers;**

1 John 4:20–21 (KJV) — 20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

1 John 3:14 (KJV) — 14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

John 13:35 (KJV) — 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

But after a time the zeal of the believers, their love for God and for one another, began to wane. Coldness crept into the church. Differences sprang up [to a church who's epistle dwelt much upon unity in Christ], and the eyes of many were turned from beholding Jesus as the Author and Finisher of their faith. The masses that might have been convicted and converted by a faithful practice of the truth, were left unwarned. Then it was that the message was addressed to the Ephesian church by the True Witness. 6T 422.2

Revelation 2:1–2 (KJV) — 1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Revelation 2:3–4 (KJV) — 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Revelation 2:5–7 (KJV) — 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. 6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

πρῶτος *prōtos*: "to being first in a sequence, inclusive of time, set (number), or space, first" (BDAG).

Acts 20:18 (KJV) — 18 And when they were come to him,
he said unto them, Ye know, from the first (*prōtos*) day
that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with
you at all seasons,

**πρῶτος *prōtos*: " . . . to prominence, first, foremost,
most important, most prominent." (BDAG).**

Mark 12:29 (KJV) — 29 And Jesus answered him, The first
(*prōtos*) of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The
Lord our God is one Lord:

**Matthew 20:27 (KJV) — 27 And whosoever will be chief
(*prōtos*) among you, let him be your servant:**

1 Timothy 1:15 (KJV) — 15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief (*prōtos*).

Hebrews 12:2–3 (KJV) — 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

O that the church might realize its need of its first ardor of love! When this is wanting, all other excellences are insufficient.

The call to repentance is one that cannot be disregarded without peril. A belief in the theory of the truth is not enough. To present this theory to unbelievers does not constitute you a witness for Christ. The light that gladdened your heart when you first understood the message for this time, is an essential element in your experience and labors, and this has been lost out of your heart and life. Christ beholds your lack of zeal, and declares that you have fallen, and are in a perilous position.

(Selected Messages, bk. 1 p. 370.3)

Revelation 14:6–7 (KJV) — 6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV) — 5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

**Revelation 2:6 (KJV) — 6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest
the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**

Romans 3:31 (KJV) — 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Romans 6:1–2 (KJV) — 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

John 14:15 (KJV) — 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments



AQUEDUCT NEAR EPHEBUS.











Hebrews 12:3 (KJV) — 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

The value of a soul, who can estimate? Would you know its worth, go to Gethsemane, and there watch with Christ through those hours of anguish, when He sweat as it were great drops of blood. Look upon the Saviour uplifted on the cross. Hear that despairing cry, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Mark 15:34. Look upon the wounded head, the pierced side, the marred feet.

Remember that Christ risked all. For our redemption, heaven itself was imperiled. At the foot of the cross, remembering that for one sinner Christ would have laid down His life, you may estimate the value of a soul. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 196.4)

1 John 4:19 (KJV) — 19 We love him, because he first loved us.

John 3:16 (KJV) — 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

