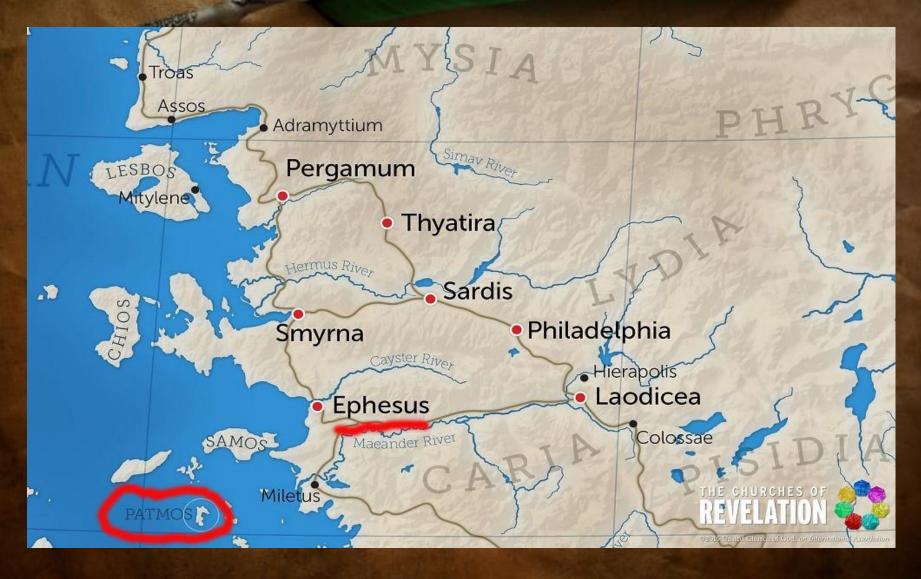


The Church in Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7

### **Map of Churches**



## **Ephesus Then**



# **Ephesus Today**



## **Temple of Artemis**



#### **Praise**

- Just as Jesus loved the seven churches, He also loves Grace Fellowship and wants us to be the church we are called to be.
- Ephesus was a religious capitol and Christianity flew right in the face of idol worship.
- The church patiently endured and did not grow weary of serving Jesus.
- The church was loyal to correct doctrine.
- The church was not afraid to challenge false teachers.
- The church rejected the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

#### **Problem**

- The church was simply going through the motions; Jesus was no longer their first love.
- We need to love Jesus first, then every other love relationship will flow from His love.
- Their passion for Christ had become cold; it was more out of obligation than love.
- The church calendar was filled, but the passion was gone and so was Christ.
- Churches today have lost their love of Jesus in order to dot the i's and cross the t's.

#### Solution

- Jesus gives three simple, yet challenging steps to draw us back to Him.
  - Remember how it used to be.
  - Repent change your mind and your heart.
  - Do the things you did at first.
- Unfortunately, we want immediate gratification and no pain.
- The wonderful thing about God is that He will allow us to repent.
- Repenting is taking action.
- Jesus wants us to remember what it was like to be fully and completely in love with Him!

#### Conclusion

- We are to serve God and serve one another.
- If we do not repent, Jesus will remove our lampstand from its place.
- The church would never know its lampstand was removed, because nothing would change, except God would not be there.
- If we are faith-filled in this life, we will know Jesus intimately in the next life.
- Everything we do, we should be doing for the Lord.