

“The Stumbling Power of Losing”

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“The Cross: A Foolish Stumbling Block,” Pt 6

November 6, 2021

Rev. 1:10 I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

Rev. 1:11 saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."



Rev. 1:12 ¶ Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,

Rev. 1:13 and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest.



Lev. 26:11 I will place my dwelling in your midst, and I shall not abhor you.

Lev. 26:12 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you shall be my people.



Rev. 1:19 Now write what you have seen,
what is, and what is to take place after
this.



1. Greeting to the angel.
2. Picture of Jesus.
3. Exhortation.
4. Rebuke.
5. Consequence of not overcoming or changing.
6. Promise to the overcomer.
7. Appeal to hear the Spirit.



Three exceptions -

Two churches have no rebuke -

(Philadelphia & Smyrna)

One church has no exhortation -

(Laodicea)



The church seems to degenerate while all around the enemies of God seem to get stronger.

First half of history - Faithful in Majority

Last Half of history - Faithful in Minority



Finally our Lord has nothing good say about her at all

1Cor. 1:23 but we preach Christ
crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and
to Gentiles foolishness,



Rev. 2:1 ¶ "To the angel of the church in
Ephesus write: These are the words of him
who holds the seven stars in his right hand,
who walks among the seven golden
lampstands:



Rev. 2:2 ¶ "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false.



Rev. 2:3 I also know that you are
enduring patiently and bearing up for
the sake of my name, and that you have
not grown weary.



Rev. 2:4 But I have this against you, that
you have abandoned the love you had at
first.



Matt. 22:37 He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

Matt. 22:38 This is the greatest and first commandment.



Matt. 22:39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matt. 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."



Jer. 2:2 Go and proclaim in the hearing of
Jerusalem, Thus says the Lord:

I remember the devotion of your youth, your
love as a bride, how you followed me in the
wilderness, in a land not sown.



Jer. 2:3 Israel was holy to the Lord,

the first fruits of his harvest.

All who ate of it were held guilty;

disaster came upon them, says the Lord.



Jer. 2:5 Thus says the Lord:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me
that they went far from me,
and went after worthless things, and
became worthless themselves?



Jer. 2:12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord,

Jer. 2:13 for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, = the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.



Jer. 2:14 ¶ Is Israel a slave? Is he a
homeborn servant?

Why then has he become plunder?



Jer. 2:20 ¶ “For long ago I broke your yoke

And tore off your bonds;

But you said, ‘I will not serve!’

For on every high hill

And under every green tree

You have lain down as a harlot.



Rev. 2:5 Remember then from what 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



John 16:26 On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf;

John 16:27 for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.



Grace In the Desert



“...See to it that no one misses the grace of God...”

Heb. 12:15