LITTLE LETTER

FEBRUARY 1, 1974
OCEANSIDE, CALIF. 92054
FROM ELMER H. HUNT, 3219 CORAL DR.
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JUST GONE AGAIN

HERE GOES AGAIN NIBBLING AT WORDS for this lil paper - always hoping here and there a wee bit of COMFORT is in it. "Strengthen ye the weak hands,and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you."(Is.35:3-4). "Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed." "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight,and the sin which doth so easily beset us,and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 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. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." (Heb.12:12-13 and verses 1-3).

WHAT TRIBULATION JOHN

I JOHN, WHO ALSO AM YOUR BROTHER, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos,for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."(Rev.1:9).

"UNTO THE ANGEL OF THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS write; - - I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and - for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. NEVERTHELESS I have somewhat against thee, <u>because</u> thou hast left thy first love." (Rev.2:1 & 2 & 3 & 4).

THE LETTER TO EPHESUS

HERE, NOW, HISTORY OF AND LETTER TO EPHESUS, as by my piece-meal parts from commentaries, Many may not; I do not agree with all of the seven I own, on various explanations. But I got to re-reading lately; some 1 like, so I pass itON.

Asia in the New Testament is apparently never the big continent of Asia, but is the part we know as Asia Minor. The Peninsula of Asia Minor extends westward between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean to the Aegean Sea coast.

Ephesus came first in the list of the seven Churches. Ephesus was the greatest city in Asia Minor, and was the big Aegean busy harbor. It stood at the mouth of the Cayster River, and all the roads of the fertile valley led to there. Thus it was the metropolis of that region; and in Ephesus pagan temples flourished. As,Acts 19:34,"Great is Diana of the Ephesians." Yet the Church of Christ was of successful importance there, and triumphed for long time.

Paul stayed longer in Ephesus than in any other city. Aquilla,Priscilla, Apollos were there.(Acts 20:31&18:19+). Paul left Timothy there "that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine."(1 Tim.1:3). Paul's lot at Ephesus was stir and uproar, as in all Asia.(Acts 19:23+) Elders of Ephesus Church loved Paul.(Acts 20:17 & vs.36-38)

John, according to legend and tradition,brought Mary the mother of Jesus to Ephesus,and they say she was buried there. In the later days John was the leading figure of Ephesus. Apparently from Ephesus he was banished to Patmos. Today there is little left of Ephesus but ruins; - - and the once great harbor is now "a marsh dense with reeds."

REMEMBER REPENT AND DO OR ELSE

"I KNOW THY WORKS, AND THY LABOUR, AND - -" Yes, they in times past were busy, with results, and with patience, "and hast not fainted." The Risen Christ praised their toil and their steadfast endurance. Many good workers for years.

"NEVERTHELESS I HAVE SOMEWHAT AGAINST THEE, because thou hast left thy first love." Maintain spiritual glow. Long ago Jesus warned of false prophets who are wolves in sheep's clothing.(Mat.7:15). In his prayerful,tearful,sad-spoken speech - farewell to the elders of Ephesus Church - Paul had warned: "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things,to draw away disciples after them". BY location, partly, the Ephesian Church was even more open to many menaces than some others. But aren't we all,these days,in very heart of sinful and apostate peoples?

LEFT FIRST LOVE

FELL? LOST? LEFT, GONE. THO CHRIST IS THERE. "But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate." Heresy named but not here defined. But in Pergamos Church(vs.15) it is also found, and in vs.14, they are very closely connected with those "who hold the teaching of Balaam" and that is connected with eating things offered to idols and with fornication. Precisely, the same problem is at Thyatira where that woman Jesebel was allowed "to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols."

"WHICH (THING) I ALSO HATE."(vs.6 & 15). Christ hates? He praises them for hating deeds. If we love anyone with full devotion and intensity, then we will necessarily hate anything which is tempting that person to ruin in body and in soul, and offends the Church for which Christ died. To be always remembered is the necessity to "hate the deeds" "but to love one another". God is love;Christ"savesSINNERS!

LEAVE SINS! BUT EPHESUS LEFT THEIR FIRST LOVE. Do we get indifferent,unconcerned? Don't mention it? Let'm GO? But all-conquering indurance to help'm in love can turn hate into love. Paul said, "We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." Christ is the way,the truth,and the life; and he said, "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." To Timothy in 2 Tim.2:12 we read, "If we endure, we shall also reign with him." SO:-

GOD TO CHRIST TO ANGEL TO JOHN TO WRITE: (three verbs) 1 - "REMEMBER", the risen Christ said, "from whence-fallen." Remember can be the first step on the hard way back. That prodigal son suddenly remembered his home.(Lk.15:17). FOR him that was the first step on the road back. "Having heard THE WORD, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."(Lk. 8:15). REALIZE something is amiss, is gone;first love,here. "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen." So it did say "fallen". It is something gone wrong. And it is not right. And it will cause an influence on CHRIST'S CHURCH. 2 - "REPENT", He said. If fall, get up and overcome. "I will arise and go unto my father and say 'I have sinned'." Saul:"I have played the fool and I have erred exceedingly." 3 - "AND DO"; "do the first works! Yes,"WORK!BACK IN DUTY.

"OR ELSE"! "OR ELSE I WILL COME QUICKLY, and will remove-." His turn, then. But no man need stay in sin he'sIN.

REMEMBER*REPENT*DO-OR ELSE. "Repent ye therefore,andBE converted, that your sins may be blotted out,when the times OF refreshing shall come from the presence of the LORD." "TO him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

WHO'S WHO AND WHERE

Brother Harry Dye's letter (& encl.) came at finale of the last L.L.L. and the family are doing well in their new Parker, Ariz. It'd be nice, why not?, if a new Church building sprang up up there. A fine family of 4=a nuclide; I heard the rumor - but at present they travel to Yuma. He has helped much on the new Yuma building, and his letter said the building is completed with only minor exceptions.

Brother Horace Orendorff in Yuma telephoned Dec. 30:- The Brethren of Yuma Valley; (about 60-and Somerton is with them, Roll, Tacna, Wellton-altogether all at 29 St.&B Ave.) they had their first Sunday Services there on December 30. Bro. Horace preached. Brother Wilce Bolin had given the Wednesday night lesson there on Dec. 26, and Bro. Dye was to preach that Sunday Eve. New Brother Bill Martin had been baptized by Bro. Horace on Dec. 23. Sister Martin (Karen?) is daughter of the late Brother Wilcher & the now Sis.Bolin.

Brother R. T. Chadwick of Aztec, New Mex. was in Phoenix for work, and was found hit in the head and robbed of over $300. The Company he had been working for sent him by plane to Aztec Dec. 11. Still unconscious, and with a blood clot, he was rushed to surgery late Dec. 12, and succumbed that night. Funeral was to be at the Aztec Mortuary near the Church. He leaves his wife Nora and the children, and a brother Frank and family at Aztec, and I believe his mother; Church members at Aztec. So sudden; cold & colds, too, there.

Brother Don Dabbs, just before Xmas, at Ventura, had baptized a Brother Cliff. Could I have his name & address? In Ventura Bro. Dabbs also performed the wedding for Sister Jeanette Edwards and Bill Henson. She is daughter of Gene & Betty Edwards. Bro. Danny Lyons, reported before in hosp. is now in Roll, Ariz. from Phoenix, and doing fair-wait for surg.

Over the holidays we received many letters, cards, and help on LLL; we appreciate everyone's concern. Many thanks.

January fiscally is doing exceptionally fine so far. And the record since June '73 report shows the income was $104.61+June bal.of $37.28; expenses $294.43. THANK YOU.

Visitors for worship at Lakeside: Bro.Dabbs, Ruth, &Roy; Bro.Olan Taylor, Burdette; Bro. Charles Johnson, Celeste; AND preaching by: Charles Johnson, Kenneth Morrison, Wes. Orendorff, John Lyons, Dallas Mickey. Sister Gloria Mickey had surgery, is fair. Her mom & family here a week; then his mom a week; both from Aztec. Bro.Dick Taylor and Georgeana now have another heir - Richard William; mom & son doing fine. END: "THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOU. AMEN."