

Synopsis of the Armenian Message

(Revelation 2:1-7)

The first of these seven letters is addressed to the church at Ephesus in Asia Minor. In the case of all seven churches, we have a speaker (Christ) who here is identified as "He who holds the seven stars and walks among the seven lampstands." In 1:20 we are told that the seven stars represent the seven angels of the seven churches and the lampstands are the seven churches. The speaker commends this church for enduring trials and adversity with patience, for working so hard, and for testing false apostles. But he has something against this church, "It has forsaken its first love" (v.4). The fire of its affection for Christ has died down. They were still sound in doctrine and very active in service, but they have lost the purpose that motivates true worship and service. The speaker continues by prescribing a solution for their problem, "Repent and do the things you did at first" (v.5). They are told to go back to their first love which characterized their early Christian life. If they don't, Christ will remove the lampstand at Ephesus', that is, that they would cease to exist as a true church. Then they are exhorted to listen to the Spirit, and they are promised a reward to the overcomer. The overcomer in the New Testament is the person who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (1 John 5:5). The promise for those who overcome is, "The right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God" (v.7). This is the promise of eternal life.

As we study the case of this church, we are led to ask ourselves, as a church, how are we doing as far as our love of Christ is concerned? Is our church known for its love of Christ or for its lack of it? As a church we want to be doctrinally sound, active in service to Him, but also motivated by our love for Him.

Armenian Congregational Church 90th Anniversary Celebration

REVIVAL MEETINGS

**Bring family and friends to hear the good news of hope and salvation
through our Lord Jesus Christ**

Friday, March 23, 2007 (Armenian)

Saturday, March 24, 2007 (English)

7:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker

Rev. Daniel Albarian