

# Can The Church Be Destroyed?

**Text:** Revelation 1:10-20

## **Introduction:**

1. We realize, in answer to the question of the title, the church Jesus has built will never be destroyed (Matthew 16:18).
2. But in our text we find the picture of Jesus in the midst of the seven churches of Asia. In chapter 2, verse 5 we read to the dire consequences facing some of the churches - their candlestick will be removed. The church cannot be destroyed, but we can cause ourselves to be rejected by Christ!
3. In order to avoid such, we will be looking at two aspects of the churches of Asia. First, what they did that was destructive to their relationship with Christ. Then this evening we will look at the things which He tells the churches they can do to keep the church strong.

**Discussion:** *To be rejected by Christ, all we need to do is...*

### **I. Leave Our First Love – Revelation 2:4**

### **II. Tolerate False Teachers and Practice – Revelation 2:14-15, 20-22**

### **III. Live in the Past Instead of the Present – Revelation 3:1**

### **IV. Become Apathetic – Revelation 3:15-18**

## **Conclusion:**

1. How tragic that the very bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:32) can be rejected by the Groom!
2. But we see that such need not be.
  - (1) From the tragic examples of these churches in Asia, we can learn lessons on what not to do! Avoidance is the best course (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; 1 Peter 2:11).
  - (2) If that course has not been followed, Jesus' words are plain – repent (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21, 22; 3:3, 19)