

Doctrinal Studies:
Why Believers Fail (Revelation 2:4)

1. There is no such thing as a perfect church.
2. Ephesus was a great church with many magnificent characteristics BUT they failed.
3. Revelation 2:3 presents these believers in fellowship with the Lord and verse 4 presents these same folk on a downward trend – all because THEY DID NOT RETAIN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST FIRST PLACE IN THEIR LIVES.
 - Verse 3 reveals believers in the DD (Divine Dynasphere)
 - Verse 4 reveals these same folks in the CS (Cosmic System)
 - Things *do change*.
 - People can move from dedication to apostasy.
4. THE KEY WORD IN VERSE 4 IS THAT THEY HAD LEFT, ABANDONED, FORSAKEN, DESERTED (aphiemi - ἀφίημι) their first LOVE, (could be chronologically but means *priority* – deep, enthusiastic, exhilaration, excitement) for the Lord.
5. Words like: eagerness, fervor, passion, intensity, joyfulness, zest could describe their love RELATIONSHIP AT FIRST, MOVING FROM THE DD INTO THE CONTROL OF SATANIC INFLUENCE BRINGS ABOUT THE DOWNTRENDS OF HISTORY (INEVITABLE DISASTER).
6. What took place occurred during the end of the period known as the Antoine Caesars.
7. This downtrend snowballed and even though Ephesus at AD 96 enjoyed great prosperity by AD 180 there would be tremendous disaster.
8. The prosperity experienced under the Roman emperors Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antonius Pius and Marcus Aurelius came to an end under the brutal rule of Commodus (AD 180-AD 192) – a cruel, tyrant monster, who slaughtered his way through life.