



7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION

FALL 2019 SERIES

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REVELATION 2:1-7
EPHESUS

*"To the angel of the church in **EPHESUS** write:*

'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.'" v. 1

JESUS SEES all the _____ done for His name's sake.

*"I know your **works**, your **toil** and your **patient endurance**, and how you **cannot bear with those who are evil**, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are **enduring patiently** and **bearing up for my name's sake**, and you have **not grown weary**." vv. 2-3*

JESUS CONFRONTS the _____ underneath our actions.

*"But I have this against you, that you have **abandoned the love you had at first**." v. 4*

JESUS COMMANDS us to love Him with our head, hands and _____.

*"Remember therefore from where 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. Yet this you have: **you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate**." vv. 5-6*

Love Him first, afresh every day, just as He loves you.

YOU CHOOSE

_____ how His love brought you together in the first place. (1 Jn 4:10)

_____ to loving Him first, before anything else. (Matt 6:33)

_____ simple acts of adoration to foster a more mature love. (Jas 4:8)

JESUS REWARDS those who love Him with _____ fellowship forever.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God." v. 7

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches!"

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BACKGROUND: Revelation 2:1-7

Ephesus boasted a population of at least a quarter million. Its geographic location was ideal, nestled between two mountains close to the Aegean Sea. It was adorned with public and commercial buildings, fountains, gymnasiums, bath houses, stadiums, theaters, and especially temples. It was a commercial powerhouse and transportation hub. If all roads led to Rome, Ephesus was a major intersection on the way. Its crown jewel was the Temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, measuring 420 by 240 feet, with a roof 60 feet high supported by 117 imposing columns.

But the church's spiritual fervor doesn't match the grandeur of their city. Ephesus was a hotbed of false teaching even in the early days following Paul's founding of the church. Paul warned about this problem while on his way to Jerusalem during his third missionary journey (Acts 20:29-31). He was right: Five years or so later, when Paul writes to Timothy ministering in Ephesus, a major concern is false teachers (1 Tim 1:3-11, 4:1-9, 6:3-10). Although Jesus commends the church for examining and rejecting false teachers, He points to a cancer in their midst: An unloving attitude permeates the Ephesian church, perhaps as an outgrowth of their zeal to defend truth. Their lack of love is inconsistent with Christianity and is deadly. After all, John says, "Whoever does not love abides in death" (1 Jn 3:14). Jesus, however, knows the solution: Love must first be directed to Him because He is the source of all love. The remedy is immediate repentance. For those who choose to repent, Jesus offers glorious promise—permission to enter paradise.

WEEK 2 VIDEO View it together as a group, and be sure to take notes.

DISCUSSION Read aloud Revelation 2:1-7.

1. Think back to when you first came to know Christ. What kinds of things did you take joy in doing to show your love to Him? What do you miss about those days?
2. Over time, in what ways have you allowed Jesus, The Great I Am, to become "The Great To Do," especially in light of our recent pulpit series in the book of Galatians? How has this sermon given you a path forward to experiencing your original devotion to Him?
3. What from the video or *Continuing the Conversation* devotionals was notable or helpful?
4. Where did the Ephesian church take a turn away from the love of Jesus? What happens to our influence in the world if we value the law, or performance, over love? How do you see this happening to believers today?
5. In what ways is salvation a Person rather than a concept? How does that knowledge affect your daily life?
6. Share with group members the ways you want to go about returning to your first love of Jesus in the coming days and weeks.

CLOSE your group time in prayer.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REKINDLING YOUR LOVE OF CHRIST

The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions - Arthur Bennett, editor
Morning and Evening - Charles Spurgeon
My Utmost for His Highest - Oswald Chambers
Your God Is Too Small - J.B. Phillips

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of *The Source* at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING will be held today at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary to inform our fellowship regarding an incident that occurred off our campuses. Current policies and procedures used to protect our children will also be shared. All Christ Chapelites are invited.

TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP AND SERVE. If you've been connected at Christ Chapel for a while, take your next step and find a place to serve! Text "CCBCServe" to 555-888 for ideas and suggestions.

REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE GREAT ROOM OR ATRIUM. If you are not a registered voter and would like to register, stop by the kiosk outside your worship venue today. Someone will be there to assist. (To register, you must be a U.S. citizen and 18 years of age by Tuesday, Nov. 5.)

HAVE LUNCH PLANS? JOIN TA ETHNE MISSIONS LUNCH AT 12:30 P.M. IN THE OAK ROOM. Christ Chapel partners with an incredible ministry in Ethiopia called LeT. Join the founder, Lemma Degefa, for lunch and hear how God is using our partnership to transform Ethiopia through the training of rural church leaders and pastors.

GET MORE OF THE NEW SERIES AT WWW.CCBCFAMILY.ORG/7CHURCHES. We've created extra content including recipes, articles and videos to go along with our fall series. Head to www.ccbcfamily.org/7churches to see it all!

CONTINUE THE REVELATION CONVERSATION. If you'd like to keep mulling over what we're learning in Revelation, be a part of Continue the Conversation. Beginning tomorrow, our pastors will be sending out short videos that offer practical questions and further insight for how Jesus' messages intersect with our daily lives. To get the videos, download the Christ Chapel Bible Church app to your mobile device and turn on your notifications.

REGISTRATION CLOSES SOON FOR COUPLES PRAYER RETREAT. Married couples, get away Oct. 25-27 and spend quality time together. You'll have time to relax and go on a date, plus you'll hear short, practical teachings from Doug and Patty Cecil on ways to continue deepening your relationship through prayer and Bible study. Register at www.ccbcfamily.org/events. The cost is \$300 per couple.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WHILE SERVING IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY. We're looking for more people to join our dream team of volunteers! Beyond using your baby whispering, crafting, snacking or story-reading skills, you'll be a part of an incredible community. Sign up today at the table in the Great Room or Atrium.

COMMON GROUND OFFERS A BREAK IN YOUR DAY. Working women are great at handling whatever the day holds - deadlines, dropped calls, changing dinner plans (and that's all before lunch!). If you need a break in your day, enjoy making new friends and value spiritual discussion, join us at Common Ground in downtown Fort Worth on Mondays and Wednesdays at noon. Learn more at www.CommonGroundFW.org.

REDEEMED HEART RECOVERY IS HERE FOR YOU. Redeemed Heart Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12-step group for those interested in recovery from any addiction, obsession, compulsion, idolatry, etc. in a loving, non-judgmental and supportive environment. There's no need to sign up beforehand; you're welcome to show up any week. We meet on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Soul Care Conference Room.

SERMON BLANKS tasks, motivation, heart, Remember, Return, Repeat, unhindered

