

Revelation 2:1-7 – “The Danger of Leaving Your First Love”

- I. **Why These Seven (7)? Why Seven (7)?**
- Lots of speculation...
 - These are 7 real churches that existed when John wrote to them.
 - Natural order based on the location of the cities & the typical route to follow by a courier...
 - Churches are real & they _____ churches seen in every era...
 - Messages given by Jesus – faithful witness, firstborn of the dead, ruler, returning One...
 - Message is clear – Listen to Him; Heed these things and be blessed...
- II. **Preliminary Comments**
- Each message follows a particular pattern – deviations are significant...
 - Messages in whole follow chiastic pattern – 1 & 7, 2 & 6, 3 & 5, 4 exhibit similarities...
 - Ephesus – _____ city in region; a metropolis
 - Paul passed through on 2nd missionary journey – Priscilla, Aquilla...Apollos
 - On 3rd missionary journey, he spent almost ____ years there.
 - City dominated by worship of Greek goddess Artemis
 - Morally bankrupt people – perverse people
 - Believers left all this – turned away from Artemis worship, burned _____ books...
 - Paul’s final words – concern that savage wolves would come in...not spare the flock...
 - Paul wrote his epistle to them 5-7 years later.
 - Timothy spent time there; John was said to be a resident there for over 25 years...
- III. **Revelation 2:1-4: What Jesus Knows About Them...**
- The One holding the 7 stars & walking in midst of 7 lampstands is the One speaking.
 - He is the One with authority; He is _____ over them as He walks among them.
 - He keeps watch over them (protection & guarding but also patrolling & _____)
 - He knows their deeds & many are praise-worthy.
 - They labored to the point of exhaustion – they worked hard, diligently.
 - They held up under the intensity of it all.
 - They did not tolerate _____ men.
 - They challenged so-called apostles & found them to be false. (Discernment)
 - Endured things for the sake of Christ’s name – great concern for the reputation of Jesus.
 - He knows this: they have left their first love! (Refer to brotherly love or love for Jesus?)
- IV. **Revelation 2:5-7: The Challenge...The Promise**
- Remember, _____, Do or Remove
 - If not, remove: lampstand (salvation or lead to imminent termination of their public witness?)
 - But they do hate the same thing that _____ hates – the Nicolaitians...
 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches – who has ears to hear?
 - Promise – To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in Paradise of God.
 - Who is the one who overcomes? _____
 - Significance of tree of life: _____
- V. **Heed These Things:**
- Jesus knows perfectly all our deeds...He cares about what we believe & what we do & why...
 - Beware of leaving 1st love because of “_____ Syndrome”
 - Beware of leaving 1st love because of right doctrine without _____/passion
 - Beware of leaving 1st love because you only hate the things that Jesus hates...
 - Caution to Calvary & all EFCA churches – Don’t love orthodoxy without orthopraxy
 - Whenever it happens, response – Remember, Repent, Do
 - The Gospel – still key to hear even after saved: Most beautiful act of _____ we could ever imagine
 - Hearing: Stir us to love our Jesus even more as we remember
 - Then repent of straying toward anything else & it reinvigorates us to _____ our Lord Jesus Christ...