

**“GOD’S GREATEST CONCERN FOR YOU AND DBC IN 2018 -
HAVE YOU LEFT YOUR FIRST LOVE?”**

(Revelation 2:1-7)

- The *inspired outline* of Revelation is found in _____.
- The *significance* of the 7 churches:
 1. They were 7 actual, _____, local churches in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey).
 2. They are symbolic of _____ of churches that have existed and continue to exist today.
 3. They are representative of _____ today.

I. THE THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE SEEN (Revelation 1:1-20)

II. THE THINGS WHICH ARE (Revelation 2:1-3:22)

A. The CHURCH at EPHESUS. (2:1-7)

1. The saved church... “To the angel of the church...” (2:1a)

- Who is the messenger and what does this tell us about the importance of the local church?

2. The significant city... “of Ephesus write...” (2:1b)

- Parallels of the church at Ephesus and DBC:

3. The Supreme Critic... “These things says He...” (2:1c)

a. Jesus Christ is described here as the one who “holds the seven stars in His right hand,” speaking of His _____.

b. Jesus Christ is further described as the one “who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands,” referring to His _____.

4. The spiritual commendations. (2:2-3, 6)

Our Lord commends this church for...

- a. Their _____ ... “works.”**
- b. Their _____ ... “labor.”**
- c. Their _____ ... “patience.”**
- d. Their _____ . (2:2d)**
- e. Their _____ . (2:3a)**
- f. Their _____ . (2:3b)**
- g. Their _____ . (2:3c)**
- h. Their _____ . (2:6)**

5. The serious criticism. (2:4)

- a. The one criticism our Lord has for this church is that it had _____
_____.
- b. The word “*left*” (aphekas) means to _____; while “*first*” (protos) means _____.

* When did this occur?

* What is this referring to?

* Can this happen to DBC?

* Can this happen to you?

6. The stated correction. (2:5)

The appropriate biblical correction involved a willingness for these believers to...

- a. “_____ *therefore from where you have fallen,*” which involves a call to reflection (aorist, active, imperative of mnemoveuo).
- b. “_____”... which involves a command for admission of their condition and a decisive change of mind (aorist, active, imperative of metaneo).
- c. “_____ *and do the first works,*” which involves a charge to go back to the basic activities of the Christian life (aorist, active, imperative of poieo).

* What are the “*first works*”?

* What components of your person do these instructions appeal to?

* Do you really need to take this criticism and these instructions that seriously? (vs. 5b)

7. The special closing exhortation to the individual and encouragement to the overcomer. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." (2:7)

- Who is the “overcomer”?
- How does this apply to you?