

SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 2:1-7 we are shown 7 elements of the message given to the angel of the church in Ephesus.

- I. The message comes from Christ.
 - A. Who is sovereign over the church (v. 1a).
 - B. Who is intimate with the church (v. 1b).
- II. The message contains the 1st commendation (vs. 2-3).
- III. The message contains a condemnation (v. 4).
- IV. The message contains a challenge.
 - A. Remember (v. 5a).
 - B. Repent (v. 5b).
 - C. Return (v. 5c).
- V. The message contains a threat of judgment (v. 5d).
- VI. The message contains a 2nd commendation (v. 6).
- VII. The message contains a promise of eternal life for those who conquer (v. 7).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 29, 2018

Passage: Revelation 2:1-7

Memory Passage: Revelation 2:2-5

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) As you read chapters 2 & 3 (the messages to all 7 churches) look for and record similarities in the messages and how each message is structured, as well as how Christ is presented to each church and the description's relationship to 1:9-20. Also, consider how the final call to remain faithful ("the one who conquers . . .") foreshadows teaching found in chapters 20-22, and any obvious ways the descriptors of Christ brought to each church provides help for them in their call to persevere.

(b) **Read Rev. 2:1-3:22.** As you read, answer the questions in (a) above.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 2:1-7.** In v. 1, Christ describes Himself with 2 characteristics found in 1:9-20. Explain both.

(b) Why are these particular descriptors used to introduce Christ's message to the Ephesian church?

(c) The Ephesians have "patient endurance" (v. 2) but "cannot bear" with certain folks, yet "are enduring patiently and bearing up" for someone else. Explain the relationship between all of these as you explain Christ's commendation of this church in vs. 2-3.

(d) **Read Acts 20:28-3.** What relationship could these verses have to Christ's commendation of the Ephesian church?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 2:1-7 & Acts 19.** Explain what the Ephesians have abandoned (v. 4). Remember to ground your answer as much as possible in 2:1-7.

(b) What does repentance from this abandonment look like according to v. 5, and how does this help you answer (a)?

(c) If they refuse to repent, Christ will "come" in judgment upon them and remove their "lampstand." What does this mean, and how does it help you answer (a)?

(d) Acts 19 describes events in Ephesus on Paul's 3rd missionary journey in the mid 50's AD. How do these events help you understand both the commendation and condemnation of the Ephesian church in Rev. 2:1-7?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 2:1-7 & Acts 19.** The Nicolaitans are most likely those who teach cultural accommodation and compromise with the world, perhaps because they tired of persecution and sought ways to accommodate their faith in and to the empire to minimize the offense of Christianity. They are mentioned again in 2:15 in connection with those who "hold to the teaching of Balaam" (either 2 similar groups or 2 different names for the same group of people).

(b) Who are the Nicolaitans among the church in America today and what dangers do they pose for you? What dangers do they pose for the Bible Church of Cabot?

(c) Consider the weight of the threat of judgment in this passage: Christ, who is "in the midst" of His churches, will "come to" the church and judge it! What difference would it make in your personal interactions with others if you remained conscious of the work of Christ both sustaining and threatening to judge the unrepentant church?

(d) What does the phrase "He who has an ear, let him hear" convey (cf. Is. 6:9-10 & Mark 4:1-34)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 2:1-7.** The first love the Ephesians abandoned was their love for Christ as specifically evidenced by their lack of witness for Christ. In what ways does this message apply to you? Have you lost the passion for Christ, His word, His people, and His witness that you had when you were first saved? What steps will you take to remember, repent, and return?

(b) What about the Bible Church corporately? Would we be commended by Christ for our sound doctrine but condemned by Him for our lost love for His people and His witness? What steps must be taken (remember, repent, return) to avoid judgment?

(c) What would it look like for God to remove our lampstand from the Bible Church?

DATE: April 29, 2018

PASSAGE: Revelation 2:1-7

To Ephesus