



Ephesus: Everything but the MAIN Thing Revelation 2:1-7

- I. Pray and read passage together (Revelation 2:1-7)
- II. **Helpful TIP:** Keep in mind the general “form” of the letters helps us interpret their meaning. There are four simple questions we want to be asking the passage to better understand it:
 - A. What truths about Jesus are being revealed?
 - B. What does Jesus commend the churches for doing/believing.
 - C. What does Jesus condemn/rebuke for doing/believing?
 - D. What instructions are given?
- III. Read Rev 2:1: If you go back to Revelation 1:20, we find out the meaning of the 7 stars and the 7 Lampstands. What does this tell us about Jesus and how does the relate to Jesus’ words in vs 2-7?
- IV. Read Rev 2:2-3. So, Jesus commends the Ephesian church for three arenas: 1. Sacrificial Service; 2. Right doctrine/right living; 3. Perseverance. What does this mean for us individually, if Jesus commends the church for doing these things?
- V. Read Rev. 2:4. This is the rebuke: they had lost their first love. What is first love? Discuss with each other how it was for you when you first came to Christ? Try to define first love.
- VI. Pastor Carsten mentioned, “The Ephesians needed to repent, to turn back NOT from their evil deeds, but rather sometimes we also need to repent of our good deeds. What does that mean?

VII. Read Revelation 4:5. Jesus outlines three ways they can return to their first love:

- A. **Remember:** Remember how it was to be forgiven and given amazing grace for the first time.
- B. **Repent:** Turn away from from self-righteous good deeds; from doing things in our own strength.
- C. **Repeat the first works:** Do those things we did at first, when we first became believers.

Take some time together to flesh these activities out. What does that mean for us individually and as a church?