

IV. TAKE STEPS TO COME BACK TO YOUR FIRST LOVE FOR CHRIST

“⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.” Revelation 2:5

Remember, repent and repeat!

“¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,” Acts 3:19

“⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” James 4:7-10

“⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Ephesians 1:7

V. OBEY NOW AND ENJOY FUTURE REWARD

“⁷ 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.” Revelation 2:7

Loving Jesus on earth leads to eternal reward in heaven.

“⁸ Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.” II John v. 8

GROW IN LOVE

7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION: GROWING IN CHRIST Ephesus: Growing In Love

Introduction:

A. Imagine if our church received a letter from Jesus Himself. Would His words bring commendation...or...correction? We do, in fact, have such letters.

“¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

¹¹ saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.” Revelation 1:10-13

The book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, reveals letters that Jesus wrote to seven churches. These words are just as relevant today as in the first century.

B. In this teaching series- Seven Churches Of Revelation- we’ll read Jesus’ seven letters to seven churches. We will learn how to grow in Christ and experience His blessings.

TODAY	Ephesus: Growing In Love
Aug 25	Smyrna
Sept 1	Pergamum
Sept 8	Thyatira
Sept 15	Sardis
Sept 22	Philadelphia
Sept 29	Laodice

C. **TEXT:** Revelation 2:1-7

HOW TO GROW IN LOVE

EPHESUS was located at a major harbor on the Aegean Sea. It was a large and influential city. The temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the world, was located in this place. This church was founded by Paul and was one of the most prominent churches.

I. LISTEN TO JESUS

“¹To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands.’”

Revelation 2:1

God is speaking. Are you listening?

“³Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’”

Deuteronomy 6:3

“²⁷My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

John 10:27

II. DON'T PRIORITIZE ACTIVITY OVER INTIMACY

“²I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

³and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

⁶But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.” Revelation 2-3, 6

These are very good things, but they are not first things.

“³⁸Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me.”

⁴¹And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

⁴²But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 10:38-42

“Be still and know that I am God...”

Psalms 46:10a

III. MONITOR YOUR LOVE FOR JESUS

“⁴Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”

Revelation 2:4

When your faith grows old, your love can grow cold.

“³⁷Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’”

³⁸This is the first and great commandment.”

Matthew 22:37-38

“⁸Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

Philippians 3:8

“²⁴Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Ephesians 6:24

