

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

chapter 2:1-7

Lesson 2

Jesus used Revelation 2 and 3 to describe what He saw as He *walked in the midst of seven churches* in Asia. This lesson addresses the church of Ephesus, known as the loveless church. Although God looks upon the heart, in Jesus' message to the churches, He focused on the actions that He saw. Even love is an action word.

OBSERVATION: Read Revelation 2:1-7

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus* and the *Holy Spirit*.

Key Words: *God, Jesus* (note: Jesus is the one who is speaking), *(Holy) Spirit*, and *overcome*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 6. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.
4. Make a list of what these verses clearly reveal about Jesus.

5. On your observation worksheet, underline (in different ways or colors) and list below the phrases which reveal:
 - a. actions Jesus praised
 - b. the actions Jesus was displeased with
 - c. the correction Jesus called for
 - d. the consequences of not changing
 - e. the promise to him who overcomes

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS: Read Revelation 2:1

1. What church was to receive the message of Revelation 2:1-7?
2. Find Ephesus on the map below and circle it.



3. Record the two attributes of Jesus described in verse 1.
4. Each description of Jesus, as revealed to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3, are taken from the Revelation of Jesus in chapter 1. Read verses 12,16, and 20 of chapter 1 and record why you think Jesus chose these words to describe Himself as He addresses the church of Ephesus.
5. What are your thoughts when you consider the fact that Jesus walks in the midst of your church?

THE GOOD: Read Revelation 2:2,3,6

1. Make a list of the *works* Jesus commended the church for as stated in Revelation 2:2,3,6.

a. Choose one of the above *works* and describe it.

b. Record the encouraging words from:

Galatians 6:9

Hebrews 6:10

1.) In what ways are you encouraged by these verses?

2. Jesus said that He *hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans*. There is much speculation about who the Nicolaitans were. Jesus mentioned them again in Revelation 2:15. For the purpose of our study, it is not as important to identify the *Nicolaitans* as it is to *hate* what Jesus hates. He commends that. Record the words of Psalm 45:7.

a. How does *hating the deeds of the Nicolaitans* relate to Revelation 2:3, *you cannot bear those who are evil*?

b. What are some sins that the world approves of today, that God *hates*?

1.) How should the church practically love the sinner, but *hate* the sin?

THE BAD: Read Revelation 2:4

1. Thoughtfully write the first word of Revelation 2:4.

a. What is your reaction as you consider the transition that this word represents?

2. What did Jesus have *against* the church in Ephesus?

3. Reflect upon your own experience or what you have seen in movies. Describe *first love*.
 - a. In what ways should our relationship with Jesus be like *first love*?
4. What are the signs of diminishing love?
5. What do you think Jesus saw in their lives that indicated their love for Him was waning?
6. What are some signs in your own life that reveal your *love* for the Lord is not what it should or could be?

THE REMEDY: Read Revelation 2:5a

1. Praise God that He does not leave us with rebuke, but provides an answer for our shortcomings. What three things does Jesus tell them to do?
2. Take each of the three remedies above and explain, as you would to someone who had *lost their first love* for Jesus, what they practically mean.
3. What do you *remember* about *from where you have* personally fallen?
4. Define the word *repentance*.
5. How would you describe the *works* you have done simply because you *love* Jesus?
6. Why do you think these three things are the remedy to a *lost first love*?

THE WARNING: Read Revelation 2:5b

1. What is the impending danger if the church of Ephesus does not heed the warning of Jesus?
2. Consider a room in your house, if someone removed the lights. What would it be like?
 - a. How might *removing the lampstand* apply spiritually (believing it does not mean He takes away your salvation)?
 - 1.) Read Job 29:2,3 and describe Job's lament.
 - a.) God's light was not withdrawn from Job because of Job's behavior, yet he suffered much the same as Jesus was warning here in Revelation. Using these verses, how would you describe the benefit of God's light?
3. What do you think Jesus was warning the church of Ephesus that He would do?

THE PROMISE TO OVERCOMERS: Read Revelation 2:7

1. According to Revelation 2:7, who is supposed to *hear what the Spirit says*?
 - a. How does one *hear* what the Spirit says?
2. The word *overcomes* is used frequently in Revelation. Who are overcomers?
 - a. 1 John 5:4
 - b. 1 John 5:5
3. What does Jesus promise *overcomers*?
4. Using Revelation 12:11, describe the actions of *overcomers*.
5. How does our *love* for Jesus cause us to *feel* either like an *overcomer* or overcome?

6. What is written about the *tree of life* in Genesis 2:9?
 - a. To prevent sinful man from eating of the *tree of life*, what did God do? Genesis 3:22-24

7. What does Revelation 22:2 and 14 reveal about the *tree of life*?

REVIEW: Read Revelation 2:1-7

1. If Jesus were to reveal what He sees in your church, what do you think He would say?
 - a. What do you think He would say about you as it relates to your part in your church?
2. What are your thoughts as you consider:
 - a. Jesus knowing the *works* you do?
 - b. Jesus knowing the state of your *love* for Him?
 - c. Jesus warning you when your *love* for Him falls short?
 - d. Jesus promising you things that you do not deserve?
3. Although all believers are *overcomers*, what does the overcoming life look like?
4. How have you been personally challenged or inspired by this lesson?

We love Him because He first loved us.

- 1 John 4:19

Observation Worksheet

Revelation 2:1-7

¹ "To 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: ² I 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; ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. ⁴ Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. 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. ⁶ But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 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.'" ¹