

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*  
Revelation 2:1-7.

**SMBC Family Devotion**

Week of February 7, 2021

\*Homework moving forward – memorize Revelation 2:1-7. Bro. Jono challenged us to memorize it. Will you listen to your Pastor and “hide God’s Word in your heart so that you might not sin against Him?”

**Before you begin:**

- Both of Bro. Jono’s messages Sunday were filled with practical application for our daily lives. What were some of the ones that stood out most for you?
- Why, of all the churches that we will see here in Revelation 2 and 3, would our Pastor have us memorize these verses about Ephesus?

**Read the text:**

“To the <sup>[a]</sup>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: <sup>2</sup>“I know your works, your labor, your <sup>[b]</sup>patience, and that you cannot <sup>[c]</sup>bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup> “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 2:1-7.

**Discussion:**

1. Before Jesus rebukes the Ephesian church He commends them. What does He commend them on?
  - a. That they are a working church. (verse 2)
  - b. That they were a persevering church. (verse 2)
  - c. That they were a discerning and disciplined church. (verse 2b-3)
    - i. We know that the church is a body, and the body is made up of many members. Are you a member of the body that these things can be said of individually?

2. Bro. Jono rightly pointed out the error that many have heard regarding this text. We do not “lose” our first love, but we LEAVE it, and more specifically, HIM. What does it mean to “leave” our first love?
  - a. “Left” in the Greek speaks of a man divorcing and abandoning his wife, and not having any biblical justification to leave her.
  - b. So when we “leave our first love,” which is Jesus, we divorce ourselves from Him and we have no cause or right to do it.
  - c. We become “busy” with church work, or any kind of work, and we willingly allow sin and Satan to lead us away from Jesus.
3. Our correction from the Lord is quite simple: remember, repent, repeat. Repeat what? Our first works. Bro. Jono shared some of his first works with us. What were your first works that you need to repeat?

**Prayer:**

- God gives you the strength to see if you have left your first love, and just how far you have left Him.
- God gives you the desire to remember, repent, and repeat.