



## REVELATION SERIES

### *The Seven Letters*

#### **Ephesus: Abandoning Your First Love**

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**Big Idea: A church can do many good things and yet lose its love for God. So can Christians.**

**Theme:** 1:19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

### **Dispensational Theory**

Ephesus: The Persevering Church, 33 – 100 AD (Apostolic Church)

### **Revelation 2:1-7** ESV

1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2 "'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

### **Commendation:** 2-3

It was a faithful, hardworking church.

It was a church that stood for truth.

It was a persecuted but persevering church.

### **Condemnation:** 4

*You have abandoned the love that you had at first.*

### **Counsel/Challenge:** 5-7

Remember, Repent, Return!

Or..."I will remove your lampstand from its place."

The Promise: I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

## LifeGroup Study Guide

### *The Letter to Ephesus*

### **Read Revelation 2:1-7**

**Stars and Lampstands:** Reminder that the 7 stars are 7 messengers. The word messengers (angelos) probably refers to the pastors of the churches. The 7 Lampstands are the 7 churches (See 1:4, 11, 19-20).

What does it mean to you that our church is a lampstand and that our pastor is in Christ's right hand?

**Great Job** What are the things in the church at Ephesus that pleased Christ? (2:2-3)

How do you think we are doing in these areas? How else is LSC pleasing God?

**Wrong Direction** Jesus rebukes the church for forsaking their first love. Forsaken (send away) Literally, "you have sent away your first love" (4-6)

What is the church's first love? Why is this so precious to Jesus?

How does a believer or church get to this spiritual low?

How can a believer keep his love for Christ aflame?

Remember: What are they to remember? How does this happen?

Repent: (means to change the mind / direction)

What will happen to the light if they don't repent?

What connection do you see between a church's love and light?

Return: He commanded them to do the things they did at first.

What are these first things? (Eph 1:15,23, Acts 19:18-20)

**Action** What have you *heard* the Spirit say to you about your love and deeds for Him? (7) What needs to change? What will help you fan the flame of your relationship with God?