

VBF Study in Revelation

Lesson 11 Revelation 2:1-7

As you read through Revelation and begin this study, ask God to open your heart. As the Psalmist prayed: "Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law" (Psalm 119:18).

Assignment: **Read through Revelation chapters 2-3** and attempt to answer the following discussion questions from the text alone.

Questions:

1. Read through Revelations chapters 2-3 and answer the following:
 - a. How many churches are addressed and what are their names?
 - b. Make observations concerning the angels addressed in the beginning of the messages to each church from the following verses: 1:20,1:16, 2:1, 3:1. Can we conclude anything concerning the identity of these angels?
 - c. From each address in ch 2-3, write out a description of the One who is addressing each church?
 - i. Ephesus
 - ii. Smyrna
 - iii. Pergamum
 - iv. Thyatira
 - v. Sardis
 - vi. Philadelphia
 - vii. Laodicea
 - d. Make observations concerning what things are similar in each address to the churches and what things are not?
 - e. Are there any churches that are not rebuked? Are there any churches that are not praised?
2. What are the seven stars and seven golden lampstands (2:1)? See 1:16, 2:1, 2:5, 3:1, especially 1:20.
3. Who is "the One who holds the seven stars in His right hand" and "walks among the seven golden lampstands" and what do you think is the significance of this statement (2:1)? What does this mean?
4. What was the church at Ephesus doing right (see 2:2-3, 2:6)? Make at least three observations.

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5. How might 1John Ch. 4 help us understand how these Ephesians “*put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false*” (2:2)? Explain.

6. How does 2:3 relate to 2:2? Explain.

(Note: We will come back to 2:4-5 in a moment)

7. What do these Ephesians hate that God hates (2:6)? How might Rev. 2:14-15 help us understand these deeds are (2:6)?

8. What does Jesus have against these Ephesians (2:4)? (Notice they have not “lost” it but “left” (aphekos) it or “departed” from it.

9. Explain from Scripture what you think it mean to have “left your first love?” How do the following passages from the same author help us understand what true love for God looks like? John 14:15, John 14:21-24, John 21:15-17, 1John 4:19-21, 1John 5:2-4, 2John 1:5-6

10. What two things are these Ephesians to do concerning the leaving of their first love (2:5) and how would that relate to your answer in question 9?

11. What will be the consequence for these Ephesians if they do not repent (2:5)? Explain.

12. How does John 8:47 and 10:26-28 help us understand 2:7? Are you hearing what the Spirit of God says (2:7) through the written Word of God (2:1-7)? Explain.

13. What will be granted to the one who overcomes (See 2:7 & Rev. Ch. 22)? How is it John says we overcome in 1John 5:4-5? Will you overcome? Why, why not?