

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

JUNE 7, 2020

REVELATION 2:1-7 (NASB)

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

²I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; ³and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. ⁴But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. ⁶Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

STUDY IT

- **Review:** Who is "The One?" in verse 1? What do the two "sevens" represent? (see 1:20)
- **Outline.** In this letter to the churches (as with the others), there is a noticeable structure: encouraging affirmation, disciplining correction, and promising motivation.
 - What is Jesus' affirmation?
 - What is his correction?
 - What is his promise?
- In verse 2, Jesus specifies those who are most dangerous to the community. Who might these *false apostles* be? Why are their teachings so harmful?

- What does it mean to persevere and endure? What does it mean to not grow weary? (v.3)
- What might be the church's first love? How could they have abandoned it? (v.4)
- What are the three commands Jesus gives the church? (v.4-5) How has God given similar commands to his people before?
- What would it mean for Jesus to remove the church from the lampstand? (Hint: think about the purpose of lamps in dark places.) (v.5)
- Though unclear in Scripture, most scholars believe the Nicolaitans were teaching a spiritual license to indulge in sinful behavior as though Jesus' blood gave such permission. (v.6)
 - Why is this a detestable belief and practice?
 - How is such belief practiced among believers today?
- Jesus promises a great reward to the overcomer. What is this reward, and where do we first learn about it? (v.7)
- What is God's Paradise? What does the tree of life teach us about it? (v.7)

APPLY IT

- In what ways are you called to persevere and endure? How are you hoping to overcome these challenges?
- What theologies and teachings are enticing you/God's people?
- How are you resisting such teachings? Or, how might you be giving in and believe such *false* things about God?
- Have you kept your "first love"?
- As a church, how can we hold fast to our first love?
- Remember, repent, and do the deeds at first: These are the three commands from Jesus on how to recover from a loss of our first love. In what ways could you be called to do these very *things*?