

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

The introduction of the 7 Comparisons of the 7 Churches starts in Chapter 2 with the Church of Ephesus. Pastor Jeff used 7 points to describe this church.

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| 1. City | 4. Compliment | 7. Commitment |
| 2. Church | 5. Criticism | |
| 3. Christ | 6. Challenge | |

The birth of this church in Ephesus was recorded in Acts 19. **Read Acts 19** and write down the ways that you see how their love for Jesus compelled the church to do incredible things!

Digging In

Read Revelation 2:1-7

Pastor Jeff wanted to challenge us with 4 different questions as to how this passage can apply to us today. He asked 4 different questions that we should be comparing to our own lives as Jesus did with the letter to the church of Ephesus.

Question 1:

The first compliment that the church of Ephesus got was that Jesus “knows their deeds, their hard work and their perseverance” (**Rev 2:2**). Do I work hard for Jesus or hardly work for Jesus? How does this idea of hard work find a balance with our salvation? **Read Ephesians 2:8-10**. If Jesus was writing you a personal letter about your life, would he commend you for working hard for Him?

Question 2:

Another compliment that Jesus gives the church of Ephesus was that they “could not tolerate wicked men” (**Rev 2:2**). The church did not put up with evil or sin. Do I hate evil and sin in the same way? Do I run from sin instead of embracing it?

Question 3:

The last compliment that Jesus gives the church of Ephesus was their ability to “test those who claim to be apostles... and found them as false” (**Rev 2:2**). Do I know what is God’s truth and what is false? Do I know what God’s Word says so I can spot false teachings? Why is this so important in today’s world, and in my life specifically?

Question 4:

The challenge that Jesus gives the church of Ephesus was that they had “forgotten their first love” (**Rev 2:4-5**). How have you possibly fallen out of love with Jesus? When was the last time you have taken the intentional time to fall back in love with him? What robs you of your love for Jesus?

Taking it Home

Jesus asks us to “remember how we have fallen” and to “repent” (**Rev 2:5**). In one way or another, our love for Jesus is not where it should be. How will you practice this week of remembering your own sinfulness? Jesus says, “those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit says.” (**Rev 2:7**). In what ways will you listen to the Spirit of God this week?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?

