

The Christian in America

Lesson 5

Revelation 2:1-7

July 4, 2021

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Introduction

Picture someone sitting in church. They are singing the songs, praying the prayers, smiling, and looking like they are fully engaged in the service. But their heart isn't in it. They are just going through the motions. The church of Ephesus was like that. They were firm in doctrine and their behavior. But their affections had strayed.

It's hard to detect when our hearts begin to stray from loving God. We deceive ourselves into thinking that we still love God fully by focusing on what we are doing right and justifying what we are doing wrong. We feel that we are in a good place as a Christian by believing the right things and doing the right things. Instead, we need to recognize that our hearts have strayed, repent, and remember that our love for God should be foremost in our minds and hearts.

Memory verse: "Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."—Revelation 2:7

Pray and read Revelation 2:1-7. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. From whom are these words? (Revelation 2:1)

2. What does the writer know? (Revelation 2:2)

3. What has the church at Ephesus done? (Revelation 2:3)

4. What does the writer hold against the church at Ephesus? (Revelation 2:4)

5. What is the writer asking the church at Ephesus to do? What will be the penalty if they don't repent? (Revelation 2:5)

6. What does the church at Ephesus have in their favor? (Revelation 2:6)

7. What does the Spirit say to the churches? (Revelation 2:7)

What does the passage mean?

1. What is our first priority as Christians? (Exodus 20:3; Matthew 6:33, 22:37-38; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 John 5:3)

2. The Ephesians had strayed in their affections for God and, as a result, their affections for each other. How does showing our love for one another show our love for God? (Mark 12:31; John 14:21, 23, 15:10-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 John 4:20-21)

3. Reread Revelation 2:2-3. The Ephesians worked tirelessly to uphold doctrine. But they had lost sight of their first love. What is the danger of losing sight of God as your first love? (Romans 14:10-12; Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 3:12-13, 11:6)

4. What do we need to do when we realize “how far we have fallen?” (2 Chronicles 7:14; Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9; Revelation 2:5)

3. Write a prayer asking the Lord to reveal where you have fallen away from Him and asking for Him to help you find your first love again.