

# LESSON TWO

Revelation 2:1-11

John was told to “write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches”. Chapters 1 and 2 of Revelation are referring to “what is now” (Revelation 1:19). The first of the seven churches addressed is Ephesus which at this time was the capital of the Roman province called Asia. After John was released from captivity on Patmos, he spent the end of his life in Ephesus. The second church to be addressed is Smyrna which is today’s Izmir. These churches were actual churches in John’s day but have come to represent churches throughout the ages and how the body of Christ in each church needs to heed the warnings. Each of the admonitions begins with a characteristic of Jesus. Then the churches are praised for their positive deeds and chastised for any areas that need to be changed. At the end are the rewards for those who “overcome”. Our individual churches today, as well as our own faith walk, can benefit from the advice given to these early churches.

1. How is Jesus described in verse 1? What do you think this represents?
2. What are the good deeds of the church at Ephesus? How can you apply those good deeds to your life?
3. What does the Lord have against the church at Ephesus? How can you apply these shortcomings to your life or the life of your church?
4. What is promised for those who overcome? What is its significance?
5. How is Jesus described in verse 8? What do you think this signifies?
6. What are the good deeds? Are there any shortcomings? Do you see these attributes in the church today? In your faith life?
7. What is promised for those who overcome?

**Prayer** Most gracious and merciful Father, the thief next to Jesus on the cross was granted entry into paradise because he believed and wished to be with Jesus. You welcome all to come as we put down our agendas and take up our crosses and follow you. Send your Holy Spirit to convict us of any areas in our lives that need adjusting so that we are commended like the church at Smyrna. Give us eyes to see where our lives are pleasing to you and where we need to make amends. We owe all to our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Amen.