



In the Mirror

Dear Ephesians... Remember, Renew,  
and Rework Your First Love

Revelation 2:1-7

*Jesus' words of commendation, correction, and consequences*

# Revelation Overview

- Penned by the John the Apostle (John the Revelator)
- Written about 96 A.D. on the island of Patmos
- It is the revelation of Jesus Christ written to convey Jesus' overall sovereignty and ultimate victory.
- It generally speaks of the momentary difficulties ahead, and it reveals the eternal fate of both believers and unbelievers.



# The repeated pattern in all the letters

1. The angel of the specific church is addressed.
2. Jesus, the royal author, describes himself in terms from John's vision described in chapter 1.
3. Jesus uses the phrase, "I know," to show his knowledge of the church, both its positive elements (except Sardis and Laodicea) and negative elements (except Smyrna and Philadelphia).
4. Jesus offers commands and possible consequences (good and bad) in relation to his diagnosis.
5. All who have an ear to hear are told to hear and heed what is written to all the churches.
6. A blessing is promised to "the one who conquers."

# Revelation 2:1-7

- <sup>1</sup> “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.
- <sup>2</sup> “ ‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.
- <sup>3</sup> I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary.
- <sup>4</sup> But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

# Revelation 2:1-7

- <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.
- <sup>6</sup> Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- <sup>7</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'



# The City of Ephesus (western Turkey)



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# I. The Commendation (v. 2-3 & 6)

A. They lived moral lives (good morality).

B. They upheld truth (right theology).

C. They remained steadfast no matter what.



## II. The Correction (v. 4-5a)

A. They had forsaken the love they had at first (their first love).

B. They needed to...

A. Remember the love they had at first.

B. Renew vows to their first love.  
(They needed to repent.)

C. Rework the actions of love, which they did at first

# III. The Consequences (v. 5b & 7b)

A. Negative consequence: v. 5b “... If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.”

B. Positive consequences:

1. (unspoken/inferred) If they were obedient, then their lampstand would remain.
2. v. 7b “To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”