

## Message One

### Rev. 1:1-2

- 1 The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him to show to His slaves the things that must quickly take place; and He made it known by signs, sending it by His angel to His slave John,
- 2 Who testified the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, even all that he saw.

### Rev. 2:1-7

- 1 To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, He who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:
- 2 I know your works and your labor and your endurance and that you cannot bear evil men; and you have tried those who call themselves apostles and are not, and have found them to be false;
- 3 And you have endurance and have borne all things because of My name and have not grown weary.
- 4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.
- 5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.
- 6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

### I. The Church in Ephesus—Rev. 2:1-7:

#### A. “Ephesus”:

1. During the last part of the first century, at the end of the apostolic age.
2. Addressed to one church, but speaking to all the churches.
3. The measuring-stick: *In God’s economy, Christ is the center, the Body of Christ is the line, and the New Jerusalem is the goal.*

#### B. The Lord’s name (always indicating the solution to the Satan-instigated problems)—holding the seven stars and walking amid the seven lampstands.

#### C. The condition of the church:

1. Works, labor, endurance, and discernment.
2. But one basic problem:
  - a. Leaving the “first love.”
  - b. Its real source.
  - c. The church in Ephesus in the New Testament.
  - d. Satan’s over-all strategy against God’s economy seen here.
3. ‘Remember and repent’:
  - a. Removing the lampstand.
  - b. “Love, life, and light.”
4. The “Nicolaitans”:
  - a. Their works.
  - b. Ignatius of Antioch.
  - c. All God’s children being priests of God.
  - d. ‘Hating’ the Nicolaitan system.

#### D. The call and promise to the overcomers:

1. What an overcomer really is.
2. Recover the first love, hate the Nicolaitans, and eat Jesus!
3. The “Paradise of God.”

#### E. Measuring the church in Ephesus.