

"One Thing Missing"

THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS REVELATION 2 : 1 - 7

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. Pastor Joe's personal commentary is in brackets and modify words underlined with dots. You can find this passage in your Pew Bible on page 1192.

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE:

- Jesus said, "**I hold the keys**".
- Jesus also said, "Do not be afraid" for "I am the first and the last", "I am the living one", and "I know all things."
- The better we understand who Christ really is, the quicker we'll respond in complete surrender and obedience to Him.
- The committed believer should not fear the future.
- Jesus Christ is coming again to rescue those who believe in Him.



1. CHURCH—The Church in Ephesus

Revelation 2:1, NIV84 ⁻¹ "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write..."

2. CONFIRMATION—God is supreme

Revelation 2:1, NIV84 ⁻¹ "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands:

3. COMMENDATION—"I know your deeds"

Serving • Sacrificing • Steadfast • Separated

Revelation 2:2-3, 6, NIV84 ⁻² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary... ⁶ you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

4. COMPLAINT—"You have left your first love"

Revelation 2:4, NASB95 ⁻⁴ 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

12 Evidences That I Have Left My "First Love"

Source: Bill Gothard

1. When my delight in the Lord is no longer as great as my delight in someone or something.
2. When my soul does not long for times of rich fellowship in God's Word or prayer.
3. When my thoughts during leisure moments do not reflect upon the Lord.
4. When I claim to be "only human" and easily give in to those things I know displease God.
5. When I do not willingly and cheerfully give to God's work or to the needs of others.
6. When I cease to treat every Christian brother as I would the Lord.
7. When I view the commands of Christ as restrictions to my happiness rather than expressions of His love.
8. When I inwardly strive for the acclaim of the world rather than the approval of the Lord.
9. When I fail to make Christ or His Word known because I fear rejection.
10. When I become complacent to sinful conditions around me.
11. When I refuse to give up an activity which I know is offending a weaker brother.
12. When I am unable to forgive another for offending me.

Revelation 2:4, NIV84 ⁻⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken [ἀφίημι—lit., "to let go of" meaning "to dismiss someone from your presence"; it doesn't mean that you "lost it"; it means you deliberately "left it" or specifically, "let go" of it—You let go of God!] your first love.

"First Love" is that fervent, personal, uninhibited, heartfelt, excited and openly displayed love for God to whom you are fully committed.

5. COMMAND—Return to "_____"

Remember • Repent • Repeat

Revelation 2:5, NIV84 ⁻⁵ Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

6. COMFORT—I am coming for you who love Me.

Revelation 2:7, NIV84 ⁻⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.



WE MUST NEVER LET OUR LOVE FOR GOD GROW COLD!



ANSWERS TO "ONE THING MISSING" MESSAGE

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5. "First Love"