



August 31, 2025

South Sub Church

“The Church that Forgot Why”

The Book of Revelation-The Church of Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7 (ESV)

“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. ²“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. ³I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵Remember 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. ⁶Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷He 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.’”

Sermon Summary:

Through his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul made sure they understood the wealth they had in Christ. He also made sure they understood what their walk should look like because of their relationship with Christ. Somewhere along the way they lost sight of their first love for Christ. It's a reminder that serving, working, and even standing for truth can become empty if we forget the “why” behind it all. Jesus calls them—and us—to remember, repent, and return to the love that started it all.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. What's a favorite place you've visited that you would love to return to?
2. When you think of your “first love” in life (hobby, food, music, etc.), what comes to mind?
3. Describe when you first came to faith or had your “first love” moment with Jesus.

Scripture Study Questions:

1. To whom is the message in Revelation 2:1–7 addressed?
2. How is Jesus described at the beginning of this passage (v.1)?
3. What works and qualities does Jesus commend the Ephesian church for (vv.2–3)?
4. What does it mean that the church “cannot bear with those who are evil”?
5. How did the Ephesians respond to those who claimed to be apostles but were not (v.2)?
6. What does Jesus say about their endurance and patience (vv.2–3)?
7. What concern or rebuke does Jesus give to the Ephesian church (v.4)?
8. What is meant by the phrase “you have abandoned the love you had at first”?



9. What three steps does Jesus instruct the church to take in response to their condition (v.5)?
10. What consequence does Jesus warn of if they do not repent (v.5)?
11. Despite the rebuke, what additional commendation is given in verse 6?
12. How does Jesus conclude His message to the church (v.7)?
13. Who is called to listen to the Spirit's message to the churches?
14. What promise is given to "the one who conquers," and what does it symbolize (v.7)?

Application Questions:

1. In what ways can you cultivate greater perseverance in your walk with Christ this week?
2. How can you practice discernment and test teachings you hear against God's Word?
3. What might it look like for you personally to return to your "first love" for Christ?
4. Which of these three steps - "remember, repent, and do the works you did at first" - do you most need to focus on?
5. What practices can help you and your church remain a faithful light in your community?
6. How does Jesus' promise, "the one who conquers will have access to the tree of life" motivate you to remain faithful in your daily life?
7. The passage ends with "He who has an ear, let him hear." What specific truth from this passage do you need to truly "hear" and apply this week?