# *life group study guide*

July 12, 2015

## REVELATION "Ephesus: Right in all the Wrong Ways" Rev. 2: 1-7

***"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:***
***These are the words of him who holds the seven starts in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: you have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far 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. But you have this in your favour: you hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."***

How does Jesus describe Himself to the first church?

List some things that we know from other Biblical passages about the city and the church of Ephesus. The book of Ephesians, particularly chapter 1, is helpful in outlining those things.

What did Jesus know about the church? What does this show about them and about Him?

For what things does Jesus praise them?

Can you think of any other passages about false teachers? In your opinion, what is our duty toward them?

What had the Ephesians done for Jesus? In addition to these few verses in Revelation, look at the book of Ephesians for some answers.

For what things does He rebuke them? What did Jesus have against the church? What must they do about it, and what were the consequences? What is the punishment if they do not repent?




What kinds of lessons can be learned from that?

What specific error had the Ephesian church opposed? Where else in Scripture is this error mentioned? What did this error involve?

Suppose someone claims that God is satisfied with us so long as we simply do not personally participate in sin. Nothing more is required. How would or should you respond?

Explain the concept of "overcoming" as it is exemplified in these verses from Revelation.

What reward did Jesus promise to "overcomers" in verse 7? Can you cite some similar promises from other books/chapters/verses?

For further thought:

Where are you speaking the truth to others, but not loving them?

Has your life become condescending, judgmental, harsh or pretentious? In what areas? What would it look like to try and "fix" that?

Is Jesus calling you back to a grace-filled and mercy-filled relationship with Him that breathes life into others? How would that manifest itself in your world?

***"The love they had at first had grown cold; also the love they used to have for other believers was replaced by suspicions of unsound teaching." -- Bruce Metzger***

***"The presence of Christ departs when well-intentioned people, zealous to find the right way, depart from the ultimate way…which is love." -- Bruce Metzger***

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