

June 26, 2016

THE SEVEN – PART 3
KEEPING FIRST THINGS FIRST
Revelation 2:1-7

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Revelation 2:1-6 *“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. ²I 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. ³You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

⁴Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵Consider 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. ⁶But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

I. YOU’VE GOT TO LISTEN TO JESUS.

Rev 2:1, Rev 1:3, Deut 6:3, Jer 7:26, Mt 17:5, Ps 46:10, Pr 15:22

II. DON’T HIDE BEHIND A BUSY CHRISTIAN LIFE.

Rev 2:2-3

Jesus commends them for 4 good things:

1. They were a **hard-working** church, an active, busy church.
2. Next He commends them for being a **persevering** church.
3. But then He says that they **had convictions**.
4. Finally, they were a **theologically sound** church.

Acts 20:29-31

III. ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR FIRST LOVE IS JESUS CHRIST.

Pr 4:23, Phil 3:8

IV. TAKE SOME STEPS TO RETURN TO YOUR FIRST LOVE.

1. **Remember**
2. **Repent** (1 Jn 1:9)
3. **Return**

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. Revelation 2:7