



# God's Challenge to the Church

Sermon One:  
"Do The Things You Used To Do"

**Revelation 2: 1 -7 (NIV)**

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## ***Revelation 2:1-7 (NIV)***

- 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:
- 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.
- 4** Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.
- 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 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices 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, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

## **Introduction**

- The Seven Churches represented seven actual churches of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century in Asia.
- However, for us they represent seven different mindsets of churches throughout history, including today.

*Reference Source: POSB--NT13, Revelation Commentary*

- The church is commended for **five** significant things:
  1. The church worked and labored for Christ.
  2. The church patiently endured.
  3. The church could not bear those who were evil.
  4. The church tested all the preachers and teachers and rejected the ones that were false.
  5. The church bore up under all for the sake of Christ's name.

## **The Complaint**

1. The complaint was that the church had lost its first love.
2. The church had lost its feelings for Christ.
3. The church had lost its love for people.

## **The Challenge**

1. Remember from where you have fallen.
2. Repent! Turn away from whatever has pulled you away from Christ and turn back to Christ.
3. Do the first works that you did. ("Do What You Used To Do")

## **The Warning**

1. Christ will remove the church (the candlestick) from its place.
2. Doctrinal purity is not enough.

## **The Promise**

1. The overcomer shall be allowed to eat of the tree of life.
2. The overcomer shall become a citizen of the paradise of God.