

1. Why would these words of Jesus be so encouraging to believers facing persecution and/or martyrdom? **“Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.”**
2. How was the church at Ephesus started? What advantages did they have historically? What things were they doing right? What advantages have the members of The Bridge had historically? Would Jesus commend us for the same things He said about Ephesus?
3. With that amazing history, the church at Ephesus **“left its first love.”** What is the difference between **“losing”** your first love and **“leaving”** your first love?
4. How is it possible for people to be active in ministry, orthodox in theology, standing firm against immorality, doing all of it for the name of Jesus, and still be guilty of leaving their first love?
5. Read **Judges 2:6-10**. How is this similar to the church at Ephesus? What can we do to help future generations KNOW and LOVE Jesus instead of just know about Him? See Dt. 4:1-10; 6:4-9; Psalm 78:1-8.
6. When were you the closest to Jesus? How were you growing close to Him? If you aren't that close anymore, what has come in the way? What would it look like for you to repent of those things (make a decisive break) and go back to the first deeds?
7. Who are the people who **overcome**? Is Jesus saying that we have to overcome in order to earn salvation? How does focusing on our eternal future help us make Jesus our #1 priority right now?
8. **Read the book of Revelation (again) this week.** Pastor Paul has received very few questions on Revelation, please send him some ([pbrown@tbbfchurch.org](mailto:pbrown@tbbfchurch.org)).
9. **Make a list of at least 5 people you know who do not yet know Jesus as Savior & Lord.** Pray daily and seek opportunities to tell them about Jesus. Invite them to a LIFE Group, church worship service, and/or our Christmas Concert on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

December 1, 2024  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
 Pastor Paul S. Brown  
 Revelation 1:17 - 2:7

**“The Things Which Are”  
 Our Glorious Lord’s Messages to the Churches – Part 1**

**I. The Things Which You Have Seen – Revelation 1**

A. Prologue (1-8)

**B. Prophet’s Commission to Write (9-20)**

1. Commission #1 (9-11)

2. Vision #1 (12-16)

**3. Commission #2 (17-20)**

<sup>17</sup> When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup> and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. <sup>19</sup> “Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. <sup>20</sup> “As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

**II. The Things Which Are – Revelation 2-3**

**A. The Church at Ephesus (2:1-7)**

**1. Place – Rev. 2:1; cf. Acts 18-19**

<sup>1</sup> “To the angel of the church in **Ephesus** write:

## 2. Portrait – Rev. 2:1; 1:12-20; Jn. 10:28-30

The One who **holds** the seven stars in His right hand, the One who **walks** among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

## 3. Praise – Rev. 2:2-3, 6

<sup>2</sup> ‘I know your **deeds** and your **toil** and **perseverance**, and that you **cannot tolerate evil men**, and you **put to the test those who call themselves apostles**, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false; <sup>3</sup> and you have **perseverance** and have **endured for My name’s sake**, and have **not grown weary**.

<sup>6</sup> ‘Yet this you do have, that you **hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans**, which I also hate.

## 4. Problem – Rev. 2:4; Jn. 21:15-17; Jn. 14-16; 1 Pet. 2:2; Lk. 9:57-62; 14:26f; 1 Jn. 3:14-17; 2 Cor. 5:14-21; 1 Jn. 5:21; 2:15; Mt. 6:24

<sup>4</sup> ‘But I have *this* against you, that **you have left your first love**.

## 5. Prescription – Rev. 2:5

<sup>5</sup> ‘Therefore **remember** from where you have fallen, and **repent** and **do** the deeds you did at first;

a. **Remember**

b. **Repent**

c. **Repeat**

## 6. Promise – Rev. 2:7; 1 Jn. 5:4f; Rev. 2:1; Gen. 3:22-24; Rev. 22:2

a. **Negative Promise – Rev. 2:5b**

or else I am coming to you and will **remove your lampstand** out of its place—unless you repent.

b. **Positive Promise – Rev. 2:7**

:7

So What?

**Discussion & Application:**