

Spring 2010  
Study Questions for Revelation Series

Text: Revelation 2:1-7

Preaching Date: February 7, 2010

Key Sentence: Regain the outward focus of your first love.

Outline:

- I. Endurance is commendable but can be self-focused (Revelation 2:1-4)
- II. Regain the outward focus of your first love (Revelation 2:5-7)

NOTE: There are several different small groups doing different kinds of studies of Revelation that follow Bob's preaching scheme. This study guide includes:

- I. A list of basic inductive study questions, for those who study the text on their own.
- II. A section of questions pursuing specifics of this text.
- III. A section of questions pursuing personal reflection and application.

The first section will remain the same each week, while the last two sections will be tailored to the specific text.

## **I. Inductive Study**

Pray: seek God's direction and wisdom. Make the study a conversation with God.

Read: Read the passage several times in different versions.

Write down what stood out to you from this initial reading.

Observation:

What is the context? What came before? What follows?

Who is mentioned in the passage? Who is the audience?

Mark the key words and phrases; study them using dictionaries or computer tools.

Mark statements that teach using comparison/contrast, metaphor, or cause/effect.

Break the section into logical pieces and write the main thought of each piece.

Interpretation:

Look for promises that are made, commands that are given, examples that should or should not be followed.

Pursue cross references on specific words and Biblical concepts. Carefully record what you learn from other Scriptures about these key words or ideas.

Summarize the section in one good sentence.

Where does this section fit in the big idea of Scripture: God's redemption plan.

Application:

Are there any commands that you need to obey; sins that you need to avoid; promises that you need to claim; examples that you need to follow.

Write a specific response to this passage, applying the teaching to your own circumstances and relationship with God.

## II. Study Questions

1. The letter is addressed not to the church at Ephesus, but to the angel or messenger of that church. What do the following verses imply about the range of use of this word: Luke 1:11; Luke 1:26; Luke 2:9; Luke 7:21-28; Luke 9:52; Luke 15:10; Luke 22:43. What is the possible range of meanings in this context (Revelation 2:1)?

2. What do these verses teach about the history of the church at Ephesus? Acts 18:18-22; Acts 19:1, 8-10; Acts 20:17-21, 28-31; 1 Cor. 16:8-9; 1 Tim. 1:1-5; 2 Tim 4:9-13.

3. Unpack the imagery in the description of Jesus (verse 1). Where were these images used? Where were they defined? What do the verbs associated with the images imply?

4. What positive qualities are commended in verses 2, 3 and 6? What practices are commended?

5. How can a group of people who have the positive qualities just mentioned have ‘forsaken their first love?’ Biblically, what would first love look like? (think especially of John’s teaching on love in 1<sup>st</sup> John.) How would first love act? (‘repent and do the things you did at first’) And how would this differ from the way the Ephesian church is acting already?

6. The letters to the churches are highly structured. Each week we will be able to summarize the letter in terms of specifics within the structure. Do so below:

To:

From (based on images in chapter 1):

Commendation (‘I know . . .’):

Rebuke and call to repentance (‘Yet I have this against you’):

Reward (‘to him who overcomes’):

Exhortation (‘hear what the Spirit says to the churches’):

### **III. Application Questions**

1. What comfort or challenge to you personally or to Trinity as a community is found in the fact that Jesus holds the seven stars and walks among the seven lampstands?
2. How are the positive qualities in verses 2,3, and 6 commendable? How can these same qualities become a problem for you as an individual or for a church community?
3. What elements of 'first love' are active in your life? Have you 'forsaken' any of these elements? If so, why? What would it look like for you personally to 'repent and do the deeds you did at first?' What would it look like in community?
4. What is the Spirit saying to you? To our church
5. How does the promise of verse 7 strengthen you for the challenges of the first six verses?