



[Revelation 2:1-7](#)

(1) "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,"These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: (2) "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; (3) and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name"s sake and have not become weary. (4) Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. (5) Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. (6) But this you have, that you hate the deeds 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 to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.""

New King James Version

After identifying Himself to the Ephesians, [Jesus](#) begins His letter by informing the church that He knew their works, both collectively and individually ([Revelation 2:2-3](#)). He knew their attitudes, thoughts, desires, goals - everything about them! He knew their hearts better than they did, just as He knows ours today.

He tells them He was aware of everything they had gone through - how they had endured much [persecution](#), suffering, and agony because of [apostasy](#) and intolerance. He knew of their fortitude in standing for the [truth](#) and what a labor it was to persevere, though they never gave in to weariness.

He then mentions how they had rejected false leaders and their subversions. They would not listen to those who tried to pervert the truth and change [doctrine](#), and they stood fast in opposing them once they found such to be liars. He knew how hard they tried to keep the laws and principles of the truth the true apostles had taught them.

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Revelation 2:1-7 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

In this description, as well as from the history of the first-century church from the [book of Acts](#) and the epistles of the apostles, we see a church that had fallen apart despite the strenuous efforts of some members to hang on to the truth. It was a church that had let something vital slip out of its grasp amidst the mounting trials and persecutions of the times.

Christ brings to their attention that they had lost their first love, the ardent desire to please [God](#) (verse 4). Their focus had shifted from where it should have been to the problems and the events happening around them. The strife generated by angry words, bad attitudes, friends and family leaving their [fellowship](#), and teachings being changed took its toll on everyone. The byproducts that such turmoil produced were mistrust and suspicion.

As [Matthew 24:12](#) says prophetically, "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."

Humanly, we might think that God would consider the Ephesians' efforts to hang on to the truth against the apostasy as sufficient, but it is obvious that He does not. For our eternal good, He expects more of us. However, He does not leave us without guidance about how to recapture what we have lost.

Why is first love so important to God? First love is the purest kind of spiritual love we as humans can demonstrate. It is a love that truly shows one's heart is completely given to God. What does first love produce? Paul answers in [II Thessalonians 1:3](#):

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your [faith](#) grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.

He also writes in [Hebrews 6:10](#),

For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

True love of God always promotes love of the brethren and love toward fellow man.

— John O. Reid

To learn more, see:

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