

SCRIPTURE READING: Revelation 2:1-7.

INTRODUCTION:

1. To the *seven* churches that are in Asia. Revelation 1:4.
2. Revelation 2:1.
 - A. **The angel.** In the Greek, the word translated “angel” can mean what we typically think of when we read the word. But, it can also mean “a messenger, envoy, one who is sent” (Thayer). See, for example, Luke 7:24, 27; 9:52; James 2:25. There is apparently no difference between what Jesus says to the angel and “what the Spirit says to the churches” (2:7).
 - B. **The One.** Revelation 1:12-18.
 - C. **Seven stars and seven golden lampstands.** Revelation 1:20.



APPLICATIONS:

1. **Jesus knows.** Revelation 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15. Good and bad. Hebrews 4:12-13.
2. **Deeds, toil, and perseverance.** Revelation 2:2A, 3.
 - A. Ephesians 2:10.
 - B. Toil. “Intense labor under difficulties and hardships” (Thomas). “The kind of toil which takes everything of mind and sinew that a man can put into it. The Christian way is not for the man who fears to break sweat” (Barclay). “Not merely labour, but labour unto weariness” (Trench).
 - C. Galatians 6:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:13.
3. **We must not tolerate evil.** Revelation 2:2B, 6, 14-15. Romans 12:9B.
4. **Test all things.** Revelation 2:2C. 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22.
5. **Positive, negative, positive.** If we stopped reading at Revelation 2:3, we’d think Ephesus was a perfect church. It wasn’t, but the Lord went about correcting them in the best possible way. Revelation 2:1-3, 4-5, 6-7.
6. **It’s not just what we do, it’s also why we do it.** Revelation 2:4. The Ephesians were still doing the right things, but they were no longer doing them for the right reason. 1 Corinthians 13:3. Type A people have to be just as careful as Type B people.
7. **Remember, repent, do the deeds you did at first.** Revelation 2:5A.
8. **We can lose our place with Christ.** Revelation 1:12-13; 2:1, 5.
9. **Listen!** Revelation 2:7A, 11A, 17A, 29; 3:6, 13, 22. “One sometimes wonders if the average church member pays any more attention to that which the Lord says in this letter regarding the necessity of loving obedience, or the necessity of maintaining one’s initial love, than the vast majority of people do regarding the New Testament plan of salvation” (Thomas).
10. **It’s all about paradise lost and found.** Revelation 2:7B.