

## When Devotion Becomes Duty

Revelation 2:1-7\*

Thirty-five years have passed from the end of the letter to the Ephesian church to this passage in Revelation. The state of these Christ-followers in Ephesus stands as a warning to us today that we can be *doing* all the right things but ceasing to *be* the people God has called us to be. It is a subtle transition. We start out rejoicing in our relationship with Jesus Christ, our sin and the weight of our guilt eternally removed. And yet slowly but surely our faith ends up being more ritual than relationship. What begins as a matter of the heart becomes a matter of habit. What was once devotion becomes duty. What was blessing, becomes burden.

Jesus Christ's commendation (2-3, 6)

Jesus Christ's criticism (4)

Jesus Christ's cure (5)

Jesus Christ's covenant (7)

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\* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

## Description of Jesus Christ to each of the Seven Churches of Revelation

<b>Ephesus</b>	<b>Smyrna</b>	<b>Pergamum</b>	<b>Thyatira</b>	<b>Sardis</b>	<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>Laodicea</b>
2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:	2:8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:	2:12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:	2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:	3:1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write:	3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:	3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:
<b>The One</b> who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:	<b>The first and the last</b> , who was dead, and has come to life, says this:	<b>The One</b> who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:	<b>The Son of God</b> , who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:	<b>He</b> who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this:	<b>He</b> who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:	<b>The Amen</b> , the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

*Revelation may not satisfy our curiosity concerning Jesus' outward appearance, but it provides all the hope and encouragement we could ask for with this eloquent symbols letting us feel and connect with who he really is. The only right response to Jesus is worship—which is then followed by his blessing and commission for service. If Revelation teaches anything at all, it is that Jesus is worthy of worship.*

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