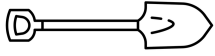


Hope Church Women's Bible Study: Revelation 2:1-7

September 16-17, 2025



Dwell: As you listened, what was your gut response to this letter? What were your first emotions/thoughts? Share your reactions and questions.



Dig:

1. Briefly summarize for each category, using the chart below. (You can also keep track of all 7 churches on the full-page chart.) **Regarding the Nicolaitans, see footnote at bottom of page.*

Passage	To angel of the church in:	Description of Jesus	What Jesus knows - Commendation	What Jesus knows - Accusation	Exhortation/ Warning	Call to listen? Y/N	Promise to the faithful
2:1-7							

2. What does it mean to you that the Ephesians have “abandoned the love [they] had at first” (2:4)?
3. How might Jesus’s counsel help them to recover this lost love (2:5)?
4. Consider how **Paul’s** letter to the Ephesians reflects what Jesus knows and is concerned about. Using the Scriptures on the back, underline what **Paul** commends them for, and circle how he prays for them /what he thinks they need. (Ephesians 1:15-20, 3:3:14-19)
5. “*He who has an ear...*” What do you think Jesus might be saying to anyone who is listening? See Matthew 13:9-17 (on the back) for further understanding.
6. What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) from this passage?

***Footnote:** *The Nicolaitans could be the same people as the “false apostles”, but this is not clear. What we have learned about them is that they taught that some degree of participation in the idolatrous culture of Ephesus was permissible. The temptations and even pressures to give in were great, since the city’s life was dominated by the pagan temples. Ephesus was known as the “temple warden” of the goddess Artemis, and thousands of priests and priestesses served in the temple precincts. The city’s prosperous economy was partly dependent on trade associated with that temple. The city had also been declared a “temple warden” of two temples dedicated to emperor worship. Therefore, the church’s resistance to internal pressures to accommodate to aspects of this idolatrous society was very commendable.*

**Deepen:**

1. Remember: When you first gave your life to Jesus, what was his love like to you? How did this influence your actions at the time?
2. Have you ever been, or are you now, in a season of feeling like you've lost your First Love? How might Jesus's call to "repent, remember, and re-do" help you as you seek to recover this Love?
3. And how can we help each other remember His first love? As this warning sign appears among us, how might we encourage our sisters and brothers, and protect the church?

Ephesians 1:15-20

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

Ephesians 3:14-19

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Matthew 13:9-17

⁹ "He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁰ Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:

'You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.'

¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."