**The Book of Revelation 2:1-7**

* In the vision, Jesus instructs John to write letters to various churches. Consider what it would be like If Jesus were to send a message to your local church.
	+ What things might He commend your church for?
	+ What things might He rebuke your church for?
	+ What things would He challenge your church to do better?

**Basic Facts**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is speaking as chapter 2 begins.
* In Revelation 2:4, Jesus says the church of Ephesus had left their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Jesus states that He will come unto you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* In Revelation 2:6, Jesus says He hates the deeds of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* He who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will eat of the tree in the midst of paradise.

**Key Phrases**

* *The Church:* God’s people, the universal body of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as well as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ group of believers. The church is the “body of Christ”. This metaphor depicts the church not as an organization but as a living organism composed of mutually related and interdependent parts. Christ is Head of the body and the Holy Spirit is its lifeblood, as it were. The body functions through the faithful use of its members’ various spiritual gifts, sovereignly and uniquely bestowed by the Holy Spirit on each believer. Because Christians are part of the body of Christ, have been spiritually gifted by the Holy Spirit, and are edified through other believers, they should not continue to live like the ungodly.
* *Angel:* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the church.
* *Ephesus:*This was an inland city 3 miles from the sea, but the broad mouth of the Cayster River allowed access and provided the greatest harbor in Asia Minor. Four great trade roads went though Ephesus; therefore, it became known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It was the center of the worship of Artemis (Greek), or Diana (Roman), whose temple was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Paul ministered there for 3 years and later met with the Ephesian elders on his way to Jerusalem. Timothy, Tychicus and the apostle John all served this church; John was in Ephesus when he was arrested by Domitian and exiled fifty miles southwest to Patmos.
* *Who say they are apostles:*The Ephesian church exercised spiritual discernment. It knew how to evaluate men who claimed spiritual leadership, judging them by their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* *Not become weary:*For over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, since its founding, this church had remained faithful to the Word and the Lord. Through difficulty and persecution, the members had endured, always driven by the right motive, that is, Christ’s name and reputation.
* *Him who overcomes:*According to John’s own definition, to be an overcomer is to be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* *Tree of life:*True believers enjoy the promise of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What commendations did Christ have for the church of Ephesus? For what sin did He rebuke them?
2. Review Jesus’ commands to the church of Ephesus. How do Jesus’ commands fit the problem He exposed in the Ephesian church?
3. How has this passage added to or changed your view of what a real “Christian” is?
4. What examples do we see today of Ephesus Christians in the 21st century church?
5. What counsel would you give a Christian friend who confessed that he or she had lost their “first love” for Christ?
6. Jesus urged, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says.” What keeps you from hearing God’s voice?
7. What are some intentional things you can do to slow down and listen to God more effectively, resulting in complete obedience to His Word?