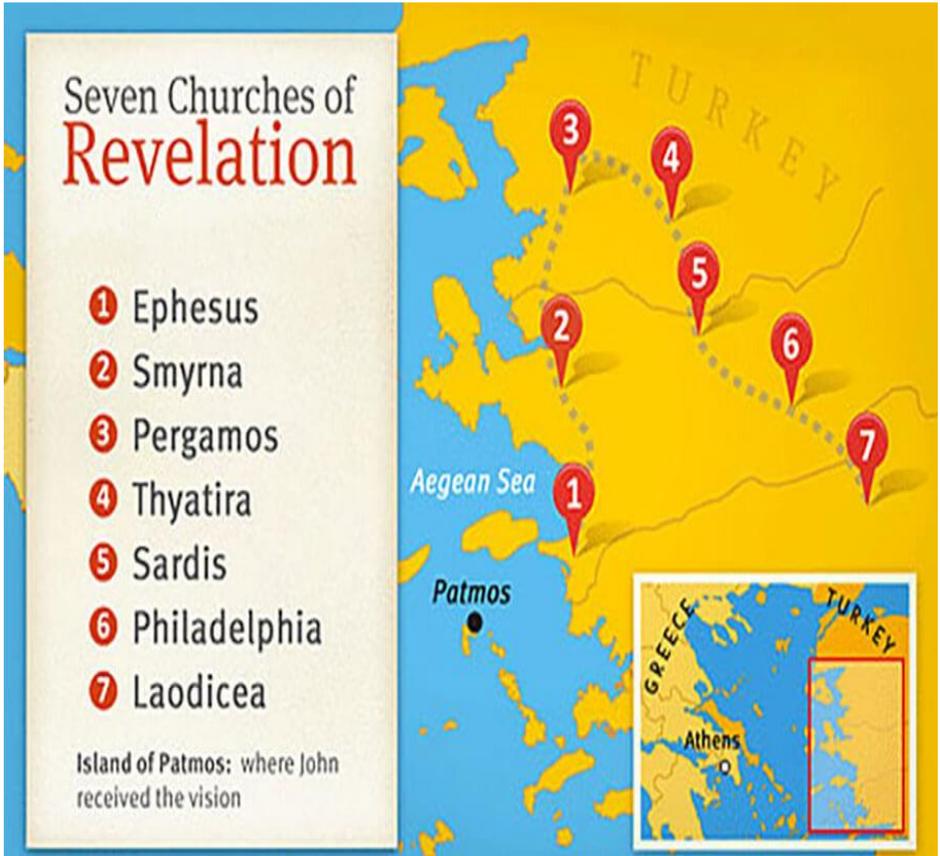


SOUL ON FIRE

PRONE TO WANDER

Revelation 2:1-7 Jeff Schreve



"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love." Revelation 2:1-4

Does the message to the church in Ephesus apply to you/us?

1. The church in Ephesus was doing lots of great things.

A. They were working hard for the Lord.

B. They were standing against sin.

Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Revelation 2:6

C. They were practicing spiritual discernment.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1

D. They were enduring hardship for His name.



2. The church in Ephesus was missing the greatest thing.

“But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” Ephesians 2:4

A. They were failing in the greatest commandment.

“YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.” This is the great and foremost commandment.

Matthew 22:36-37

B. They had allowed other things to take first place.

He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. Colossians 1:18

C. They loved the Lord—but not like they once did.

3. The church in Ephesus was given a prescription of 4 things.

“Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.” Revelation 2:5

A. We are to remember.

B. We are to repent.

“Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” Acts 3:19

C. We are to return.

D. We are to respond quickly.

Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD until He comes to rain righteousness on you. Hosea 10:12

Be honest: what is the condition of your heart today?