



Rock Point Church
Daniel Goulding | 11.11.2023

PATTERN FOR THE SEVEN LETTERS

- A **greeting** for the Church
- A **title** of the risen Christ
- A **praise** of the Church
- A **criticism** of the Church
- A **warning** for the Church
- A **promise** for the Church

Revelation 2:1-3 (NLT)

¹“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands:

²“I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don’t tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. ³ You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.”

SIX THINGS THE CHURCH DOES WELL

- Deeds
- Hard work
- Discernment
- Convictions
- Boldness
- Perseverance

Revelation 2:4-5 (NLT)

⁴ “But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first! ⁵ Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.

"The greatest competitor of devotion to Jesus is service to Him." - Oswald Chambers

HOW TO RETURN TO OUR FIRST LOVE:

REMEMBER

Psalm 51:12 (NLT)

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

REPENT

James 4:7-8 (NLT)

⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

REPEAT

Revelation 2:5-7 (NLT)

If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches. ⁶ But this is in your favor: You hate the evil deeds of the Nicolaitans, just as I do.

⁷ "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God."

Group Discussion

1. What stood out to you about this week's sermon?
2. Talk about a time when you were trying to do something for someone, but it didn't turn out how you expected.
3. Why is it easy for us to fall into the trap of doing things for God instead of with God?
4. Think back to when you first became a Christian. What did your walk with God look like then? How does that differ from your current walk with God?
5. Why can we become complacent about our walk with God? How do we avoid becoming complacent?
6. Read Revelation 2:4-7. Where have you let things in your life get in the way of your walk with God? Where do you need to repent and return to your first love?