

1  **DUTY OR DEVOTION?  
PERFORMANCE  
OR PASSION?**

Revelation 2:1-7

2  **VS. 1**

- Who is the angel of the Church in Ephesus? The local elder or pastor

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- Who are the 7 stars? And what are the lampstands?

The stars are the pastors/elders, and the lampstands are the 7 churches

- Who holds the 7 stars and walks among the 7 golden lampstands? Jesus Christ (1:9ff)

7 represents completeness, so all churches are represented in these letters

3  **VS. 2-3 COMMENDATION OF THE CHURCH**

- Solid in doing good deeds

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- Outstanding Kingdom work ethic

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- Admirable perseverance when the going is tough

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- Ruthless in your intolerance of wicked men and their dirty deeds (Isaiah 5:20)

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4  **COMMENDATION CONT.**

- Demonstrating excellence as it relates to discernment of truth and falsehood, thereby calling out false teachers (2 Pet. 2:1-3)

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- Persevering while enduring hardships for the Name of Jesus

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- Serving apparently tirelessly (See Gal. 6:9)

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- Hating what Christ hates (the practices of the Nicolaitans) Vs. 6

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5  **VS. 4 THE CRITICISM**

"You have forsaken your first love."

See Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:36-38

Consider Paul's heart in Phil. 3:4b-11

6  **THE REFLECTION**

If we can relate, we must ask "how did we get here?"

- It's often not intentional, but sometimes (See Luke 15; John 6:60ff)  
Life changes. Schedules fill. Lost focus and 'lesser things'

"Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, *because he loved this world*, has deserted me..." 2 Tim. 4:10

Consider Matt. 6:19-21

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If we are still 'white hot with holy flame,'  
we must ask "how can we avoid this trap?"

8  **VS. 5 THE REMEDY**

REMEMBER

What was it like at first? How did you celebrate the relationship?

In what ways do you rehearse the story to yourself and others?

REPENT

Acknowledge where you've dropped the ball, and do an 'about face.'

REPEAT

What about the sweet hour of prayer? Time in the word? Active participation in the fellowship of believers? Putting feet to your faith?

9  **VS. 7 THE REWARD**

"To him who overcomes I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."