

Revelation 2:1-7

September 24, 1978

Central Idea: Personal devotion to our ever-present Lord and vital fellowship with the brethren energizes a church's ministry and produces future rewards for the faithful believer.

I. The character of the Lord (2:1)

- A. As a church we can depend upon our Lord, the all-powerful Shepherd, for supervision.
- B. As a church we can depend upon our lord, the ever-present Shepherd, for fellowship.

II. The commendation of the church (2:2-3)

- A. As a church we must minister to our community and to one another.
- B. As a church we must preserve moral and doctrinal purity.
- C. As a church we must bear one another's burdens.

III. The condemnation of the church (2:4)

- A. As a church we must grow in personal devotion to our Lord.
- B. As a church we must maintain vital fellowship with the brethren.

IV. The Counsel of the Lord (2:5-6)

- A. As a church we must constantly focus and refocus our attention on the Person of the Lord Jesus and His work on our behalf.
- B. As a church we must deal decisively with the sin that would draw our affection away from Christ and destroy our ministry.

V. The challenge to those who hear (2:7)

As an individual believer you must take active steps of obedience in each of the above areas. Your future rewards depend upon your faithfulness.

Practical Steps for Growing in Personal Devotion to Your Lord

Our love for Christ is diminished and soon quenched by a competing love for other things, namely, the world's attractions. A believer tends to slip back in the world by stages:

1. Friendships with the world (James 4:4)
2. Spotted by the world (James 1:27)
3. Loving the world (I John 2:15-17)
4. Conformed to the world (Rom. 12:2)