

**OVERCOMERS:
SEVEN CHURCHES THEN AND NOW**

Theme Verses: *“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” – 1 John 5:4-5 (ESV)*

**EPHESUS: KEEPING FIRST THINGS FIRST
Revelation 2:1-7**

Ephesus was one of the first churches planted by the Apostle Paul. But now, fifty-plus years later, something is missing.

1. Some Words of Commendation (Verses 2-3, 6):

A. Their _____.

C. Their _____.

B. Their _____.

D. Their _____.

“For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you . . .” - Ephesians 1:15 (NAS)

2. A Word of Criticism (Verse 4):

“But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” – Revelation 2:4 (NAS)

Jesus: But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.” – John 5:42 (NAS)

The word “left” (lost, forsaken) speaks of a particular point and can mean three things:

A. To _____ other priorities or relationships in place of God.

B. To _____ your personal times with God in prayer and Bible study.

C. To _____ God in a time of hurt, brokenness, grief or rebellion.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love, does not know God, for God is love.” – 1 John 4:7-8 (NAS)

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe his commandments.” – 1 John 5:2 (NAS)

3. Some Words of Correction (Verse 5):

Christ says to: A. _____ B. _____ and C. _____

Or else I will: D. _____

4. A Word of Calling (Verse 7):

A. As a result of this sermon today: (1) “What is God calling for our church to do?”
(2) “What is God calling for me to do?”

B. If we will overcome, God promises: (1) A New _____!
(2) A New _____!