

# What Jesus says to a Busy Church

Seven Letters to Seven Churches, part 1  
Pastor Bob Johnson, September 8th, 2019

## The Message of the Book of Revelation:

*“Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.” Revelation 1:19 (ESV)*

**Part 1:** the \_\_\_\_\_ John had just seen. (Rev. 1:10-16)

**Part 2:** the \_\_\_\_\_ of the seven churches. (Rev. 2-3)

*“Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.” Revelation 1:11 (ESV)*

**Part 3:** the \_\_\_\_\_ of what will take place. (Rev. 4-22)

- God is sovereign even in our troubles
- Jesus offers complete deliverance to those who trust Him.
- Sin does not win in the end

## The Method of the Book of Revelation:

Three early examples in Rev. 1:

“7-fold Spirit”	Rev. 1:4-5	refers to the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2)
“7 Lampstands”	Rev. 1:12	refers to the 7 churches (Revelation 1:20)
“7 Stars”	Rev 1:16	refers to the 7 pastors (Malachi 2:6-7)

*“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary.*

*Revelation 2:1-3 (ESV)*

## Three Encouragements: (Rev. 2:2)

- *toil*: “Labor to the point of exhaustion”
- *patient endurance*: “a courageous acceptance of hardship, suffering and loss”
- *discernment*: “a sensitivity to God’s truth and a refusal to be swayed by false teaching”

## One Main Concern:

*But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Revelation 2:4 (ESV)*

## Three Keys To Rekindle the Fire:

*Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Revelation 2:5a (ESV)*

• **Re -**

• **Re -**

• **Re -**

(Revelation 1:3, 2:7)

*Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord ... Acts 3:19-20 (ESV)*

## One last warning and encouragement:

*If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. Revelation 2:5-7 (ESV)*

## Matthew 5:11-16 (Msg)