

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Visit to Whirlwind Missions** — Monday, July 24. We will go down town to Tim Cummins mission and hangout with the teens for the day. Bring \$6 for lunch at the Bufford Farmers Market. Meet at 9:15am
- ◆ **Tubbing in Helen** — Saturday, July 29, 2017. The cost is \$10 each plus bring a sack lunch or money for lunch.
- ◆ **4th Annual Color Warz** — Wednesday, August 2 at 6:00pm during the the normal REFUGE time. Wear messy clothes that you don't mind getting wet or messed up.

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

“Your First Love”

Revelation 2:1-7

Do you remember your first crush or love? Who was it, and how did you act?

Read Revelation 2:1-7

What are the things that was pleased with the Church at Ephesus?

Their ACTIONS— “your hard work and your perseverance” v. 2

Their non-tolerance of EVIL people v. 2

Their TESTING of those false apostles and their THEOLOGY v. 2

Their enduring HARDSHIPS for Jesus name. v. 3

What did Jesus rebuke them for?

They had forsaken their FIRST LOVE. v. 4

What do you think he meant by “First love?”

Order or Priority?

What does Jesus tell Ephesus to do?

REPENT—and start doing the things you did at first.

Application:

Where are you with your relationship with Christ?

Is it closer or further from where it was 6 months ago.

What can you do to continue or correct that?

THE BIG PICTURE

July 20 - July 26, 2017

Read: Revelation 1– 7

Understanding What You Are Reading

The last book of the New Testament is Revelation and it was probably written around 95 AD. It was written by John one of the 12 Apostles and part of Jesus inner group of three (Peter, James, and John). The book is written as an apocrypha which means it is full of symbolism and written about the end times and reuniting of Christ with his bride, the church.

Chapter 1 opens with John explaining his letter and that it is the testimony about Jesus Christ, the “**Alpha and Omega... who is, and who was, and is to come.**” Here John is told to write down everything he sees and hears and send it to the 7 churches in Asia minor. Even though Jesus name is not mentioned in chapter 1, by the description you can tell it is Him.

Chapters 2-3 are 7 brief letters to the churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Each letter is addressed, “**To the angel of the church**” which represents the leaders and pastors serving there. Each letter has some type of praise (except Laodicea) but is followed by a strong rebuke for something.

Chapters 4-5 describes a scene in heaven that takes place around the throne of God. There are vivid colors and various creatures that surround the throne and worship the One on the throne. There are 24 elders that have small thrones around the throne, along with, 4 unique creatures with wings that never stop saying “**Holy, holy, holy.**” There is a scroll that is sealed and no one is found worthy to open the seals until one who comes that looks like a lamb slain and He is worthy to open the scroll.

Chapters 6-7 describe the opening of the seals and what happens on the earth when the seals are broken and opened. These events described are so violent and bring massive death and destruction to the earth. There are 144,000 people listed from the 12 tribes and then following that “**a great multitude that no one could count**” that were gathered around the throne.

THE BIG PICTURE is to see that God will have His day some day. He will punish evil and Jesus will return for the church. We need to make sure we are ready for His return and to be reunited in a perfect relationship.

Journal Ideas: (Some suggestions) Write a one sentence summary of each chapter. Which church do you identify with most? Which praise or rebuke do you resemble most?

Pray: (Some suggestions) Review and revise your weekly prayer list in your journals. Pray for people to come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. Pray that you will be stay close to God by spending time with Him.