REVELATION 2:1-7 / EPHESUS
- **CHAPTER 2 IS A COMMUNICATION FROM JESUS CHRIST**
- **VERSE 1:** To the ANGEL of the church of Ephesus write.
  - Angel = messenger, minister?
  - Message is to the church
- **WHO IS THE MESSAGE FROM?**
  - From Him who holds the 7 stars and walks among 7 lampstands (Jesus)
- **GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:**
  - Each church is different
  - Due to this difference, a different attribute of Christ is revealed to each.
  - Churches symbolize:
    - Condition of historical churches of John’s day
    - Condition of modern churches (any church)
    - Some believe symbolize stages of church history
- **FOUR PART MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS**
  - Verses 2-3: The Lord’s Commendation
  - Verse 4: Condemnation
  - Verses 5-6: Counsel
  - Verse 7: Challenge

REVELATION 2:8-11 / SMYRNA
- **THE MESSAGE IS FROM HIM WHO IS THE FIRST AND THE LAST, WHO DIED AND CAME TO LIFE AGAIN.** (VS 8)
  - Jesus described himself this way because this characteristic could meet a need that the church had. (This could instill strength and courage.
  - This reveals that the church was persecuted. (Because they were a Christian witness in a pagan city.)
  - Persecution brought a high level of commitment to the church. (The church of Smyrna and Philadelphia are the only two churches mentioned that are not condemned by Christ.)
- **THE MESSAGE HAS THREE POINTS:**
  - The Lord’s Commendation (Vs 10) ...know poverty, yet rich...
  - Counsel (10) ...don’t be afraid, be faithful unto death...
  - Challenge (10b-11)...faithful will receive crown, escape 2nd death
- **INSIGHT:** Stay faithful to the Lord regardless of persecution.