Session 3
Returning to our First Love - Rev 2:1-7

I. Review

II. Church of Ephesus

A. Background

III. What does Jesus say to them?

A. Look at me!

1. I hold the seven stars in my right hand
2. I walk among the seven lampstands

B. Seven stars

1. Angels-Messengers
   a. Herald – the one who proclaims the message
   b. 5-fold leadership – Eph 4
2. Right hand
   a. Power & Strength – Ex 15:6
   b. Protection & Care – Ps. 17:7

C. Seven Lampstands

1. Tabernacle/Temple – Ex 25;37 Num 8
2. Oil lamps
3. High Priest would daily trim the wicks, add oil & keep the flames lit

D. He commends them

1. Look at all the great things you've done!
   a. Horizontal in focus
   b. 2nd commandment

E. He rebukes them

1. This I have against you!
2. You have left your first love.
   a. 1st Commandment – Mt 22:36-38
3. Repent and do what you did at first.
   a. Jer 2:2 I remember the devotion of your youth, the love of your betrothals
4. Activities of loving Jesus
   a. Obedience – Jn 14:15,21,23; 15:9-10
   b. Wisdom – Mt 7:24-27
   c. Time

d. Prayer & conversation
e. Reading & meditating on His words
f. Acts of obedience out of love for Him

F. He warns them

1. I will come and remove your lampstand!
   a. Purpose of the lampstand – Mt 5:15
2. The Lampstand of Ephesus
   a. Is the lampstand related to the regional revival in Eph? Acts 19:10
   b. I am the light of the world – Jn 8:12
   c. You are the light of the world
      (1) Let your light so shine
   d. 10 Virgins
      (1) Wise – brought extra oil
      (2) Foolish – brought no extra oil
   e. The Lamp
      (1) Lamp – reservoir – our hearts
      (2) Wick- life, trimmed to keep the flame bright
      (3) Oil – intimacy
         (a) Olive Press
         (b) Fuel of our passion
         (c) The reality of our relationship becomes the fuel of our heart to produce a bright light in the darkness of this world.
      (4) Flame – Light
   f. Elk River & the Lampstand

G. He describes what He does for those who overcome.

1. To eat from the tree of life that is in Eden.
   a. Is this another way of saying they will be saved?
   b. Tree of life is on either side of the river of God in the new Jerusalem – Rev 22:1-2
      (1) 12 different fruits – each bearing every month
      (2) Leaves for the healing of the nations
2. Is this the same as Rev 22:14?
   a. Those who wash their robes
      (1) Right to the tree of life
      (2) Enter the city gates
   b. Rev 6:11 Martyrs given white robes
   c. Rev 7 those who come out of the tribulation have washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb.
      (1) They also serve in the direct presence of God day & night.