"What Christ Looks for in a Church"
(Revelation 2:1-11)

Revelation 2-3 contains 7 letters of evaluation of local churches from Jesus Christ Himself. They are brief, but they pack a big punch! They help us to see what Jesus is looking for in a church. A study of the first two letters reminds us of the importance of…

Not Letting Our Love Grow Cold! (2:2-5)
(Jer 2:2; Ezek 16:8; Matt 22:36-37; Acts 20:29; 2 Cor 5:14; Eph 1:15; 2:4; 5:2)

- **Christ's Recognition (2-3)**

- **Christ's Rebuke (4)**

- **Christ's Remedy (5)**

Staying Faithful Through Trials/Suffering (2:8-10)
(Job 1:21-22; 2:10; Matt 5:11-12; 26:39; Jn 16:33; Rom 5:3; 2 Tim 3:12; Heb 12:1-4; Jas 1:2-4, 12)

- **Christ's Encouragement (8-9)**

- **Christ's Exhortation (10)**

"What Christ Looks for in a Church"
(Revelation 2:1-11)

Small Group Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: Share a couple things you appreciate about your church.

1. **Share something from Sunday's message that challenged you.**

2. **What do you think Jesus means when he tells the church at Ephesus that they have "left their first love?" What causes the passion of this "first love" in our relationship with Him to leave?**

3. **How would someone specifically obey the 3 commands to REMEMBER, REPENT and DO THE FIRST WORKS in Rev 2:5? Take a moment to "REMEMBER" by briefly sharing your salvation experience and how excited you were to be saved.**

4. **How can we go through a time of suffering in a way that glorifies God? What Scripture verses could be helpful? Share a personal testimony of how God helped you get through a time of suffering.**

Digging Deeper

1. **Take some time to prayerfully consider the 3 exhortations in Rev 2:5 to "Remember…Repent…and Do the first works." Ask God to show you what you need to remember, repent of, and get busy doing in order to rekindle a passionate love relationship with Him.**

2. **Jot down what each of the following verses teach us about going through suffering in a way that pleases and glorifies God - Job 2:10; Matt 5:11-12; Jn 16:33; Rom 5:3; 2 Tim 3:12; Heb 12:1-4; Jas 1:2-4, 12**

3. **Do a comparison of the ways Christ describes Himself to each of the 7 churches in Rev.2-3. How might each of these descriptions be meaningful to the church He is addressing. How are they meaningful to you?**

For Next Week
The sermon will have a missions emphasis. Take some extra time each day to pray for the needs of our missionaries listed on the missions prayer sheet that is included in the bulletin.