

Revelation 2 B Sermon Discussion Questions

Pastor Ron Holton | Central Campus | August 12 and 16, 2026

Scripture Passage: Revelation 2:1–11

Have different small group members read the passage aloud before beginning discussion.

Icebreaker Think about something you once loved doing that gradually became more of a routine or obligation. What changed, and what helped you rediscover the joy in it?

1. Pastor Ron taught us that each of the seven letters to the churches in Revelation has 7 components. What are they, and which component encouraged or surprised you the most?
2. In Revelation 2:1–7, Jesus commends the church at Ephesus for many things, yet He says they have “left their first love.” What does this mean? How might that show up in our own lives?
3. Jesus says, “I know” what His churches and His people are experiencing. Do you really believe God sees you and knows all? What do these passages teach us about God’s character—particularly His awareness, presence, correction, compassion, and promises?
4. The church at Smyrna was experiencing poverty, persecution, and suffering, yet Jesus called them “rich” and encouraged them to remain faithful. What does this teach us about how God measures faithfulness and wealth differently from the world?
5. Both churches faced different spiritual dangers: Ephesus had lost its first love, while Smyrna was being tested through suffering. What do you notice about our human propensities when life becomes difficult, comfortable, busy, or spiritually routine? Which of these tendencies are easiest for you to recognize in yourself?
6. Jesus offers each of us a best next step: remember, repent, return, engage, and persevere. Which of these words most challenges or encourages you right now, and what might it look like for us to encourage you to live it out this week?

For Application & Next Steps

- **Remember & Return:** Re-read Revelation 2:1–11 daily this week. Prayerfully consider where idolatry, ingratitude, neglect, or materialism may have crept into your heart. Repent and return to the Father, as Holy Spirit prompts you.
- **Engage:** Identify a missionary, small group member, or neighbor who may be experiencing loneliness, discouragement, suffering, or spiritual weariness. Reach out intentionally—send a note, make a phone call, pray with them, invite them for coffee, or meet a practical need. Let your love for Christ move beyond words and into action.
- **Persevere:** If you are struggling with depression, discouragement, or doubt, or you feel like giving up, please reach out to a trusted godly leader, friend, or counselor. Share a prayer request or ask for prayer after service. You don't have to walk alone—we are here for you.

Sermon Notes | RPC Central Campus | Revelation Series
Church Messages- What is God saying to You? By Pastor Ron Holton
Sunday, August 16, 2026 | Text: Revelation 2:1-11

Seven letters with 7 components to each letter every time:

1. Opening Address
2. Jesus' Self-Identification – different for each church and what they need to hear
3. Jesus' I know statements - I know your situation, poverty, tribulation, what you are doing and I am with you. Intimate language
4. Assessment – reviews the condition of the church, including 5 rebukes
5. Exhortation – offering acknowledgement, correction and rebuke
6. Promised blessing to "the one who conquers"
7. Call of the Holy Spirit at the end "He who has ears let him hear what the Spirit says"

Manifestations of Abandonment

What does it mean, You have left your first love?

No longer love God with all of their heart, no longer love their neighbor

- Repent of neglect, ingratitude, materialism
- Remember apart from Christ we are lost and, in our sins
- Return to the Father

Nicolaitans – led people astray with false teaching, saying once you come to Christ you can do anything you want - toxic grace abusers.

He who has ears, let him hear what the Spirit says: to the one who conquers, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the paradise of God.

Remember Jesus conquered sin and death by suffering with a crown of thorns upon His head. He is the King, the Savior. The tree of life points us back to Genesis, and may also be a jab at Artemis!

The church in Smyrna – known as the city that died and came to life. Jesus reminds them He died and He came to life for them! The City is thriving with wealth while the Christians are really being persecuted; struggling economically and socially suffering. They are rich toward God, because He sees them and they are suffering for His name's sake, blessed with eternal rewards. Reminds them to be faithful to death. Vs. 10: What is the crown of life- given to those who have paid the price and suffered well. We see 2 crowns in NT – Royal crown and Victor's crown received after winning a battle or Olympic event. The second death is the day of judgment and punishment for our sins.

Application:

Remember

Repent

Return and Engage

Persevere