

# Westwood Baptist Church



Grounded. Growing. Going.

## Worship Guide for January 17, 2021

### Sermon Notes

#### **First Love: Jesus' Assessment of Our Affections**

Revelation 2: 1-8

Revelation shows us that Jesus will come back one day to close out history. But Revelation also shows us that Christ regularly comes to his church now – he walks among us and speaks to us both to encourage us and judge us. This is what we see today as we begin our study of Jesus' letters to his seven churches.

Today we see a church that was doctrinally sound and had a keen sense of what was right and wrong. They knew the difference between the truth of God's Word and false teaching. They sought to do good works in the community around them, they ferociously defended the glory of Christ's name above all other names, and they staunchly defended against moral compromise. They patiently endured hardship and stood up against opposition. On many fronts, this sounds like a perfectly healthy church. We would hope Jesus could say the same about us.

Yet for all that the church in Ephesus was doing well, Jesus had one criticism, and it is a huge problem. Jesus himself said to them, *"But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first."* (Revelation 2:4) Outwardly things looked great, but the One with "eyes like a flame of fire" (Rev 1:14) saw right through their business and saw the reality of their hearts - they had lost their passion for Jesus, their passion for the gospel. A passionate love for Christ leads us to love those outside and seek to win them. This they have lost. It's not like they had misplaced it and couldn't find it; they had left it; they had walked away from it. Other things had distracted them. Other interests and pursuits had captured their hearts. They were merely going through the religious motions.

Jesus has a holy passion for his church, for Westwood. He has a jealous love for us. Yes, he wants our obedience and doctrinal fidelity, he wants us to work hard for him and patiently endure. But he wants more. He demands more. He wants our love. In his grace he points out where this passion is missing, and he offers us a way back.

Jesus says: "I'm here with you - I know you perfectly". (Rev 2:1)

Jesus says, "I commend you for all you do". (Rev 2:2-3, 6)

Jesus says, "I see your heart - and therein lies the problem". (Rev. 2: 4)

Jesus says, "Listen, remember, repent and return". (Rev 2: 5)

Application:

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# Weekly Discipleship Guide

## Sunday

*In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:*

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

**Know**

## Monday

*Spend some time today doing the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

**Know > Be**

## Tuesday

*In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

**Be**

## Wednesday

*Think about this week's questions for group discussion:*

How would you explain the difference between knowing a lot *about* God and knowing God? What is the danger of a pursuit of the former without the pursuit of the latter?

How can moralism and/or legalism quench our affection for God and our affection for others? How do we balance pursuing both truth (doctrinal fidelity) and mission (authentic gospel love for others)?

How are you guarding against falling away from a flourishing primary love for Christ? How can we do that better together?

**Be > Do**

## Thursday

*In your journal, spend some time considering the following:*

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

**Do**

*\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.*

### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor

**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor

**Jim Fulp:** Counseling Pastor

**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students  
& Discipleship

**Katie Austin:** Children's Ministry  
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### Contact Us

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### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:00am - 1:00pm

*Other times by appointment.*

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