



Sermon Notes: September 27, 2015

Pursuing

1 of 5 from the teaching series "All In"
Revelation 2:1-7 • Pastor Paul Bradford

Revelation 2:1-7

¹ "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. ⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶ But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

All In

- Jesus never gave us the option of being "a little bit in," yet that is often our condition. Have we passed the "point of no return" in our walk with Christ? Or are we living with one foot in and one foot out?
- 5 behaviors essential for being "all in" (we will study one per week): pursuing, seeing, giving, serving, and redeeming
- Today: Pursuing, returning to our first love

Five Traits of First Love

- An insatiable desire to know the other person more deeply
 - an insatiable desire to know God - you can't get enough
- A continual longing to be with the other person
 - delighting in God's presence
- A heavy investment in the relationship
 - taking the time to be with the Lord, study scripture, serve, and share the good news with others
- An intense preoccupation of your heart
 - Jesus as the center of our heart, thoughts, actions
- An abundant expression of physical affection
 - physical expression of love to God is important, too - kneeling, lifting hands, singing, etc.

The Danger of Heart Drift

- The Ephesian believers had great traits (verses 2-3), but something had gone wrong (verse 4).
- Some traits of heart drift: taking someone for granted, not putting the person first in our priorities, letting other things take our attention.
- Leaving your first love is a choice - a series of choices, often small and unconscious ones.

Reigniting Our Passion

- Remember the height from which you have fallen (verse 5) - remember the time when you had an insatiable desire to learn about God and you invested your all in the relationship
- Repent - repent means “to turn” - admit that your present state of heart isn't acceptable and that it must change, then decide to turn around and move toward where you are supposed to be
- Rekindle - do the things you did at first - a series of small choices can bring back that loving feeling!

Our Response

We can reignite our passion for the Lord if we remember the height to which God is calling us, repent of our lukewarmness, and rekindle our first love.