



## CALLED OUT

### Week 3 | Called Out to Hope

#### | KEY THOUGHTS

##### Revelation 2:1-6

- The letters to the churches in Revelation 2-3 were **written to actual churches** in Asia in John's lifetime, dictated to John by Jesus Himself.
- His first message to the church at Ephesus is, "You guys are doing great in some important things, but **you've abandoned the love you had at first.**
- **This "first love" was their early passion that made them unafraid of opposition, unashamed to stand for the gospel.**
- Some of us don't have to turn back to that, but must move forward toward it, as **we may never have experienced that first love.**
- The church at Ephesus fell by **being protective of and defensive for the gospel.**
- **By shielding the flame of the gospel from the winds of opposition and false doctrine, we hide the candle under a basket, which Jesus warned against.**
- After a church's lampstand is removed, **the congregation can continue meeting for decades, but the light has gone out**, so they're ineffective for Christ's kingdom.
- When Jesus said, "He who has an ear, let him hear," He's indicating that **this message isn't just for the church at Ephesus, but for all of us in every church everywhere.**

##### Revelation 21:1-8

- In this passage, **we catch a glimpse of the hope of eternity**, which can encourage us to endure all the troubles of today.
- "Heaven and earth" means **everything in creation, both seen and unseen, physical and spiritual.**
- Jesus didn't say he was making all new things, but that He was making all things new; **eternal life begins now**, not some vague time in the future.
- We can't fix any of the world's problems, because **the source of all problems is our sin.**
- **Only Jesus can deal with sin once and for all, and only God can make all things new.**

## | SCRIPTURE

<sup>1</sup> To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: “The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

<sup>2</sup> “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. <sup>3</sup> I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup> But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. <sup>6</sup> Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” **Revelation 2:1–7 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup> The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. <sup>8</sup> But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” **Revelation 21:1–8 (ESV)**

## | PRACTICAL

- When Jesus says, “Write this down,” we can know it’s really important!
- Jesus is the Head of the Church. When there’s a problem in our church, we must go not to the pastors or the elders, but to Him.
- We’re sometimes tempted to hide the flickering flame of the gospel in an attempt to avoid being hurt by others. When you find yourself wanting to do that, realize that Jesus calls us to be vulnerable and speak up for Him.
- Read Revelation 2-3 and 20-21 this week; meditate on what Jesus said to the churches in John’s day, and what we have to look forward to in the eternity that will be ours in Jesus Christ.

## | REFLECT

- Have you ever experienced the “first love” that the first church in Ephesus once had, but lost?
- Do you love what Jesus loves and hate what Jesus hates? What *does* Jesus hate? What does He love?
- Who is in charge of Lighthouse Community? Who is able to keep the flame burning and the light on the lampstand? Who is able to remove it?
- Are you thirsty for the water of life? What does it cost you to drink from that spring?
- Is an eternity in paradise with God worth enduring some temporary pain in this present world?

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