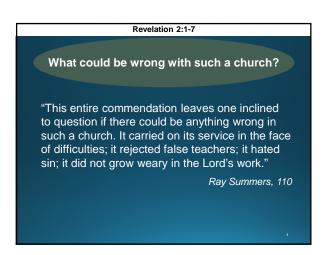
### A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

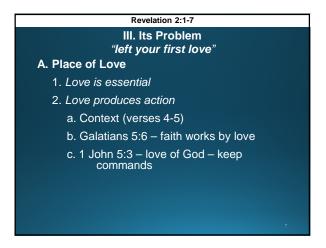
Revelation 2:1-7 Letter to the church at Ephesus

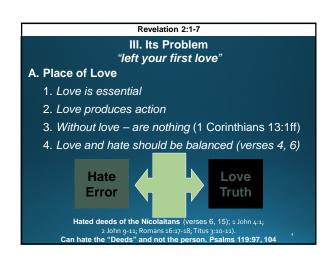
### Revelation 2:1-7 Its Strong Qualities A. Works (verse 2) B. Labor (verse 2) C. Patience (verses 2, 3) D. Doctrinally Correct (verses 2, 6) What could be wrong with such a church?



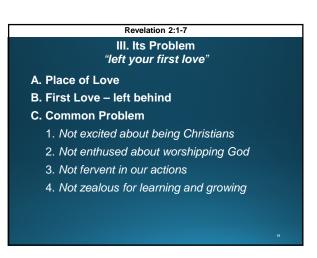
# Revelation 2:1-7 A Church That Left Its First Love When the Fire is Gone I. History II. Its Strong Qualities III. Its Problem

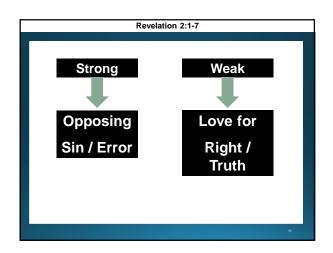






## Revelation 2:1-7 III. Its Problem "left your first love" A. Place of Love B. First Love – left behind 1. "Honeymoon is over" – Harkrider, 25 2. "Loyal but lacking" – Summers, 108 3. "In form, this was still a 'sound church' which fended off false doctrine, but the fire had gone out. There is more to serving God than adherence to mechanical, traditional routine" – Harkrider, 28 4. Their fire is gone! 5. Love, enthusiasm, excitement – vanished!







### Revelation 2:1-7

"They had set out to be defenders of the faith, arming themselves with the heroic virtues of truth and courage, only to discover that in the battle they had lost the one quality without which all others are worthless ...

Zeal for Christian truth may obliterate the one truth that matters, that God is love. John is a rigorist who shares the hatred of heresy which he attributes both to the church of Ephesus and to the church's Lord; but he recognized the appalling danger of a religion prompted more by hate than by love." – C. B. Caird, A Commentary on the Revelation of St. John the Divine, 31



### Revelation 2:1-7

### A Church That Left Its First Love

When the Fire is Gone

- I. History
- II. Its Strong Qualities
- III. Its Problem
- IV. Its Future

### Revelation 2:1-7

### IV. Its Future At a Crossroads

### A. About to lose identity

- 1. If they don't change God will remove their lampstand (verse 5)
- 2. Soon will no longer be the "Lord's church"
- 3. It is decision time!
- 4. Can't stay in the this lull / rut

Warning: Revelation 2:7, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches"

### Revelation 2:1-7

### IV. Its Future

At a Crossroads

- A. About to lose identity
- B. Problems are curable
  - 1. Could be fixed

"Surely in this milder denunciation we may see a proof that the evil in Ephesus was curable ... But the cooling of the first Ephesian enthusiasm was a failing that lies in human nature. The failing can be corrected, the enthusiasm may be revived."

W.M. Ramsay, The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia, 244.

### Revelation 2:1-7

### IV. Its Future

At a Crossroads

- A. About to lose identity
- B. Problems are curable
  - 1. Could be fixed
  - 2. Must Repent (verse 5)
    - a. Prompted by memory (verse 5)
       Note: Luke 15 Prodigal son "The lever of repentance is memory" (Harkrider, 28)
    - b. Change the mind
    - c. Do first works do what you used to do!

Remember

Repent

Return

Revelation 2:1-7

### A Church That Left Its First Love

When the Fire is Gone

- I. History
  II. Its Strong Qualities
  III. Its Problem
- IV. Its Future

Revelation 2:7, "To him that overcometh, to him will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God." Note: Genesis 3:22; Revelation 22:2, 14, 19 Victory is the dominant theme. cf. 1 John 5:4