

**THE JESUS FILES – PART I**  
**“Ephesus – The Loveless Church”**  
**Revelation 2:1-7**

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There was a time when the church at Ephesus was thriving and healthy. However, over time the church became spiritually anemic and was in bad shape. What happened to this once vibrant church that caused them to be in critical condition such that their hearts were without love? Today’s teaching will answer that question and cause us to do a reality check on the condition of our own hearts.

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**#1. JESUS’ SELF-DESCRIPTION, v. 1**

- A. Jesus addressed the angle of the church at Ephesus
- B. Jesus holds the 7 stars in his right hand
- C. Jesus walks among the 7 golden lampstands

**#2. JESUS’ WORDS OF COMMENDATION – I KNOW YOUR DEEDS, vv. 2-3, 6**

- A. I know your hard work, v. 2
- B. I know your perseverance, vv. 2-3
- C. I know you can’t tolerate wicked men, v. 2
- D. I know you have successfully tested the false apostles, v. 2, Acts 20:29-31
- E. I know you have endured hardship for my name, v. 3
- F. I know you have not grown weary, v. 3, Acts 19:23f
- G. I know you hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, v. 6

**#3. JESUS’ WORDS OF CONDEMNATION – I HOLD THIS AGAINST YOU, v. 4**

- A. You have forsaken your first love, Mat 22:36-40
- B. Remember the height from which you have fallen, Acts 19:17-20

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**APPLICATION POINTS**

**HOW DO I KNOW WHEN I’VE FORSAKEN MY FIRST LOVE?**

- A. You lose your \_\_\_\_\_ for God
- B. You lose \_\_\_\_\_ for people outside the church
- C. You love the \_\_\_\_\_ of God more than the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
- D. You see God as an \_\_\_\_\_ pursuit
- E. You become overly \_\_\_\_\_ on minor issues

**#3. JESUS’ ULTIMATUM – REPENT OR CEASE TO EXIST, v. 5b**

- A. Repent - do the things you did at first
- B. Repent - I will remove your lampstand

**#4. JESUS’ PROMISE – TO THE OVERCOMERS, v. 7**

- A. Hear what the Spirit says to the churches
- B. Overcomers will eat from the tree of life
- C. Overcomes will be in the restored Eden

**NOTES:**

ANSWERS: Passion, Compassion, Word, People, Intellectual, Dogmatic.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What is significant about Jesus' self-description in v. 1?
- #2. Jesus had some good things to say about the church at Ephesus (point 2 on the outline). Discuss each of them and identify how that can be applied to Hillcrest Church.
- #3. Read Acts 20:29-31 and discuss the warning Paul issued to the Ephesian elders.
- #4. What did Jesus mean by "you have forsaken your first love"? (v. 4)
- #5. Why did Jesus tell them to remember the height from which they have fallen? (v. 4)
- #6. Which of the personal application points stand out to you and why?
- #7. Why is Jesus' ultimatum so serious in light of the fact that they had done so many things well? (vv. 5b-6)
- #8. What does it mean to be an overcomer? (v. 7)
- #9. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

# *Welcome*

*to*

# *Hillcrest Church*

## *Love, Acceptance & Forgiveness*

*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.*

*Revelation 2:7*

*August 20, 2023*

*Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **TODAY**

Pastor Bruce is introducing a new series titled "The Jesus Files." This teaching focuses on the seven messages Jesus had for the churches in Asia Minor, which are in the book of Revelation.

### **THANKS FOR YOU PARTICIPATION AT ROYER PARK**

We had a successful outreach at the park with Roseville City Church. We were able to mingle with a lot of people, give them food and drinks, and enjoy fellowship on a beautiful day. We will do this again. Thanks for your involvement.

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 9am**

Roseville City Church is hosting men's breakfast. Join us for food, fellowship and a good time. 125 Franklin St, Roseville

### **CELEBRATION OF OUR NEW ROOF, SEPTEMBER 10th**

After the service we will celebrate God's provision of a new roof over cake and ice cream. God has done wonderful things in 2023 and it's time to celebrate and thank the Lord.

### **ICE CREAM OUTREACH SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 6:30PM**

Join us at Garbolino park to connect with our neighbors and eat ice cream. What's not to like about ice cream!

### **ONLINE GATHERINGS**

The Prayer Meeting: Tuesday at 7pm with Pastor Tim Brooks  
The Bible study: Wednesday at 6:30 – 7:45pm with Pastor Bruce.  
Go to the online meeting room on our website ([hillcrestRoseville.com](http://hillcrestRoseville.com)) to access either gathering.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

If you have a need for prayer don't hesitate to call Pastor Tim Brooks at (916) 872-5207 or email: [timnealbr@gmail.com](mailto:timnealbr@gmail.com)

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online ([hillcrestroseville.com](http://hillcrestroseville.com)).

### **THE BUILDING FUND**

We appreciate your donations to this fund, which enables us to continue making upgrades to the building. Our next project is upgrading our outdated electrical system.