

## The Revelation to St. John

### *The Seven Letters, Part 1: Revelation 2:1-11*

“The letters indicate that the Lord Christ knows all about his churches, his people... They intimately reveal the Lord Christ’s love and concern for his church.” –Dr. Louis Brighton, *Revelation* in the Concordia Commentary Series, p.57

### An Introduction to the Seven Letters

1. What is the general structure of each of the seven letters?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Who are the angels of the churches?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What purpose do the seven letters serve in the book of Revelation?

### Understanding the Text

Read Revelation 2:1-7, the letter to the church in Ephesus.

1. How does Jesus identify Himself, and what does He know about this church? (vv.1-4)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is Jesus’ call to repent and His promise to those who do? (vv.5-7)

Read Revelation 2:8-11, the letter to the church in Smyrna.

3. How does Jesus identify Himself, and what does He know about this church? (vv.8-9)

4. What is Jesus' call to repent and His promise to those who do? (vv.10-11)

### Applying the Text

The Church must always discern true doctrine from false doctrine.

1. How does the world react to God's Word distinguishing truth and error? (v.3)

2. How can we show love by hating false doctrine (vv.2, 6)

The Church lives by Christ's love and in Christ's love.

3. What is the relationship between Christ's love for us and our love for others (v.4)?

The Church endures tribulation through constant hope in Christ's final victory.

4. Should the Church expect the material blessings of this world? (v.9)

5. Where are our true riches to be found? (v.10)