“BE FAITHFUL, EVEN TO THE POINT OF DEATH”

Revelation 2:1–11

Key Verse: 2:10b

1. Skim the seven messages to the seven churches (2:1–3:22). Note the similarities and differences. Why do you think the phrases “These are the words of…” and “Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says” are repeated to all seven churches? (cf. Isa6:9,10) Why is Jesus so concerned about his churches?
2. Why do you think he addresses the Ephesian church first? How does he introduce himself, and why? (1) How does he encourage them? (2,3; compare 1Th1:3) What is the motivation of “false apostles”? (Ac20:29,30; 1Ti6:3–5) What does it mean to “persevere” and “endure” “for [Jesus’] name” (3), and why is it important?
3. What does he hold against them? (4) How seriously does he take it? (5) What does it mean to “forsake” their first love? Why is love even more important than hard work or perseverance? (Lk10:27) How can we renew our first love? (5; see also 1Ti1:13–15; 1Jn4:10–12)
4. What does it mean to “hate the practices” of the Nicolaitans? (6; cf. 2:14,15) To be “victorious”? (7; 17:14) What does Jesus promise those who are? (7b; cf. 22:2)
5. How does Jesus introduce himself to the church in Smyrna, and why? (8) How does he describe what they are suffering there, and why does he say “yet you are rich!”? (9; 2Co6:10; Jas2:5) What is he referring to in verse 9b? What does he predict? (10a)
6. Why should they not be afraid? (10a; 1:18) Read verse 10b. What does it mean to be “faithful, even to the point of death,” and how can we be? (12:11; cf. Ac20:24) What does Jesus promise those who are? (10c; Jas1:12)