



# genesis church

begin. believe. become.

September 27, 2020

Services held at:  
Faith United Fellowship  
186 27th Avenue  
Vero Beach, FL 32968

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## STAFF

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## TUESDAY

6:00 Pastor's Bible Study  
in person at Church &  
Live Streaming

## WEDNESDAY

**NO** Worship Team Practice  
at the Church

6:30 Youth Group  
Meeting at the Church  
Snacks will be Provided  
Contact Chris for details

## SATURDAY

8:00 Reflective Walk  
Memorial Island

## PRAYER List

Continued prayer for the following:

Barbara Van Arman  
Billie Brooks & Family  
Bobbie Parris was at church today and is doing great. She thanks everyone for your love & support.  
Carl Volgarino & Family  
Gaylord Hansen  
Gloria Thomas  
Heather Kmetz  
Henny H. Raams - Mother of Marieke Dam.  
Karen Gupton  
Ken Sandor  
Kim Edgecomb's Dad is home and doing better.  
Linda Napier  
Lynn Lindsey

Jim Sanderson is still recovering-at home and is noticing improvement.





# Message from Pastor Derrick

## Whoever Has Ears, Let Them Hear An Exposition of Revelation #3 Revelation 2:1-7

1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place. 6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. 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.

### Lessons From Ephesian Mail:

#### (1) Every virtue carries with it the seed of its own destruction (2-3; 6)

##### Ephesian Virtues

**Contenders for the Faith** - "I know your hard work" - Ephesus was a harbor town; therefore multicultural and pluralistic. They faithfully confessed the Gospel in the midst of it.

**Perseverance** - "You have persevered" - Ephesus housed temples to the Roman Emperor Diocletian and the Ephesians refused to bow to him.

**Theologically Discerning** - "you have tested those who claim to be apostles and found them to be false" - As the Christian faith grew, so did heresy; especially in a town like Ephesus.

**Good Judges of Character** - "you hate the practices of the Nicolaitans" - Ephesians also housed the temple of Artemis; who was the goddess of fertility and pleasure. The Nicolaitans just plugged Christianity into this formula for hedonism and removed Artemis.

**Highly Moral People** - Because of the aforementioned.

##### The Ephesian Problem

*Lacked love; grew hostile to the culture they were called to reach. Contending had turned into contentiousness. Perseverance into a high brow. Discernment into a heretic hunt. Good judges of character had become condemners. High moralism turned into else righteousness. The answer was return to simple love for God and people.*

#### (2) Memory can be a powerful force to return to a more satisfying relationship with God (4-5)

##### At Every Stage of Biblical History, Remembrance and Memory Is a Trigger for Righteousness

**Bound for the Promised Land** - Remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness (Deut 8:2)

**While In the Promised Land** - take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of slavery (Deut 6:12)

**To Stay in the Promised Land** - remember the former things of old; for I am God and there's none like me (Isaiah 46:9)

**While worshipping in the Promised Land** - "I will remember the deeds of the Lord; your wonders of old (Ps 77:11)



At Every Stage of NT History, Remembering Jesus' Words had to Happen for the Church to Survive

**Communion** - this is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me (1 Cor 11:24)

**Ministry to Others** - Paul to the Ephesian Elders - remember the words of Jesus "it is better to give than receive (Acts 20:35)

**Holy Spirit's Ministry to Us** - But the helper, the HS, will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all I have said to you (Jn 14:26)

*So remember the things you did at first; and especially that you never graduate from having faith like a child.*

**(3) As Christianity becomes more unpopular, having a convictional backbone will become more vital (6).**

What a convictional backbone is not:

**Loud Piety** - Peter - Will never deny you;

**Noticeable Piety** - Pharisees Problem - Love to be seen

What it is:

Firmness and resoluteness of character in the face of threat

What it requires that the Church in Ephesus Had:

(1) **Competence** - theological understanding; they didn't tolerate the practices of the Nicolitians because they knew the Bible.

(2) **Confidence** - knowing what you stand for is worth it;

(3) **Courage** - here I stand I can do no other

What It Needed they Didn't Have:

Grace in delivery and purpose

An Example from Our Protestant History

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen." -- Martin Luther

**(4) Truth absent of love clangs. Love absent of truth condones. But love and truth together shine (7)**

*Whoever has ears, let them hear*

Clanging

The Galatian Problem that started creeping into Ephesus; Legalism; Principles of Scripture affirmed but devoid of the relational dynamic of love.

Condoning

The Corinthian Problem; License; Scripture subservient to love and feeling.

Love and Truth

The Ephesian Ideal; both in the letter and here.

*So important is love that lampstands can be removed without it. May ours shine brightly in this community until he comes again.*





## YOUTH GROUP

6:30 Wednesday at the Church

Call Chris for Details

**Snacks will be Served**

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*Happy  
Birthdays*

5th - Karen Gupton  
12th - Jay Farmer  
22nd - Darci West  
29th - Pam Bjorkman  
Arlen Volgarino  
Avery Volgarino  
30th - Vern Barker  
31st - Deena Smith



3 John 1:2

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well."