

Final Countdown: The Book Of Revelation
“How To Keep First Things First” (#3)
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
August 16, 2020

Big Idea: God extends His mercy with a final countdown before He judges the World.

"Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

Revelation 1:19-20 (NIV)

We Need To:

1. Listen And Take To Heart What Jesus Says

"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"

Revelation 2:1 (NIV)

“Blessed is the one who **reads** the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who **hear** it and **take to heart** what is written in it, because the time is near.”

Revelation 1:3 (NIV) Remember Verse

“So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it.” **Hebrews 2:1 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

2. Guard Against The Progression From Devotion To Duty

“I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.” **Revelation 2:2-3 (NIV)**

Acts 20:29-31 – Warning of savage wolves

“Yet I hold this against you: You have **forsaken** your first love.”

Revelation 2:4 (NIV)

Jesus replied, “You must **love the LORD** your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘**Love your neighbor** as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” **Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT2)**

“But you have this in your favor: You hate the **practices of the Nicolaitans**, which I also hate.” **Revelation 2:6 (NIV)**

“For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to **turn from godless living** and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and **devotion to God**, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave His life **to free us** from every kind of sin, **to cleanse us**, and to make us **His very own people**, totally **committed to doing good deeds.**” **Titus 2:11-14 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

3. Take The Steps To Return To Our First Love

“**Remember** the height from which 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 lampstand from its place.” **Revelation 2:15 (NIV)**

- Love for Jesus - Matthew 22:34-40
- Love for Family - John 13:34-35
- Love for the Church - Hebrews 10:23-27
- Love for The Lost – John 3:16; Acts 1:8

“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. There is only the terrible expectation of God’s judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies.” **Hebrews 10:23-27 (NLT2)**

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” **Revelation 2:7 (NIV)**

- What’s in first place in my life?

My next right step, I will:

- [] Write out a daily, weekly, monthly routine of keeping Jesus first
- [] Invite someone to join me in this study of the book of Revelation
- [] Join our zoom Bible Study on the Book of Revelation, Tuesdays 6:30 pm
- [] Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior
- [] Participate in The Return: Global Day of Prayer & Repentance – Sept. 26

Final Countdown: The Book of Revelation
“How To Keep First Things First” (#3)
Cornerstone Church Of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
August 16, 2020



Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it under 12 minutes.]

Small Groups: [Choose as many questions that honor your group's time commitment]

Open in Prayer:

- What thoughts from this week's message encourage you to live like Jesus?

Icebreaker: How do you show love to Jesus?

Big Idea: God extends His mercy with a final countdown before He judges the World.

Review the Remember Verse “**Blessed** is the one who **reads** the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who **hear** it and **take to heart** what is written in it, because the time is near.” **Revelation 1:3 (NIV)**

Read Revelation 2:1-7

We Need To:

1. Listen And Take To Heart What Jesus Says

Read Revelation 2:1

What do you learn about Jesus from this verse?

Read Hebrews 2:1

What helps keep you from drifting in your faith?

2. Guard Against The Progression From Devotion To Duty

Read Revelation 2:2-3

What are some good things this church is doing?

How would we measure up to the church at Ephesus?

Read Revelation 2:4

They didn't lose their first love for Jesus, they left. What is the difference?

Read John 14:21-23

What does it mean to love Jesus? What does He promise in return?

Read Matthew 22:37-40

How does God want us to love him?

How does this relate to the people around us?

Read Revelation 2:6

The MacArthur Study Bible.

2:6 the deeds of the Nicolaitans. A problem in Pergamum also (vv. 12-15), this heresy was similar to the teaching of Balaam (vv. 14, 15). Nicolas means "one who conquers the people." Irenaeus writes that Nicolas, who was made a deacon in Ac 6, was a false believer who later became apostate; but because of his credentials he was able to lead the church astray. And, like Balaam, he led the people into immorality and wickedness. The Nicolaitans, followers of Nicolas, were involved in immorality and assaulted the church with sensual temptations. Clement of Alexander says, "They abandoned themselves to pleasure like goats, leading a life of self-indulgence." Their teaching perverted grace and replaced liberty with license.

How does the influence of our culture try to get believers to compromise?

Where do we as believers need to make a stand today?

Read Titus 2:11-14

What does God's grace instruct us to do?

How does this passage compare to what most churches teach today?

3. Take The Steps To Return To Our First Love

Discuss each category of love:

- Love for Jesus - Matthew 22:34-40
- Love for Family - John 13:34-35
- Love for the Church - Hebrews 10:23-27
- Love for The Lost – John 3:16; Acts 1:8

Read Hebrews 10:23-27

How does this describe what the church should look like?

Have you needed encouragement lately?

Is there someone who needs your encouragement?

Why is there no other sacrifice?

Read Revelation 2:7

What is the warning here?

Have you known churches in the past that are diminished or closed today? Share.

What promise does Jesus give us?

What steps help me listen to the Holy Spirit?

Close in Prayer: _____