

**Encounter these verses today:**  
*Circle words that you identify with,  
underline phrases or sentences you'd  
like to remember, write questions about  
the passage out to the side ...*



## Revelation 1:9-20 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

<sup>12</sup> I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup> The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

<sup>17</sup> When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

<sup>19</sup> "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. <sup>20</sup> 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.

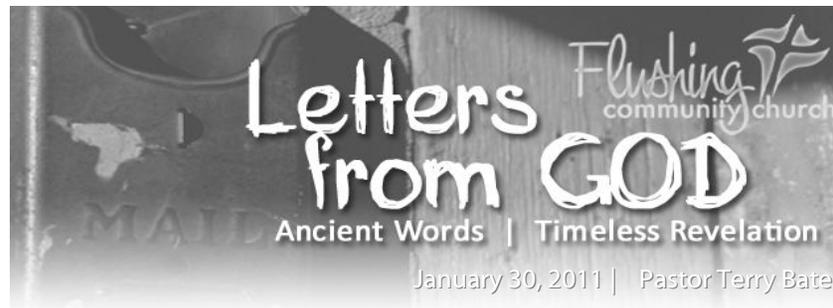
## Revelation 2:1-7 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> "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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

<sup>4</sup> Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> 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 lampstand from its place. <sup>6</sup> But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

<sup>7</sup> 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.



## Get Started ...

Do you ever think about your first love?

Did your spiritual journey begin with a big "spiritual high"?

## Facts about Revelation ...

## Notes about the city of Ephesus ...

## Similarities between Ephesus and Flushing Churches ...



# Digging Deeper | 2010

[Engage the message throughout the week]

## Monday: 1.31.2011

**Passage:** Acts 19:1-22

Paul established the church in Ephesus while on one of his many missionary journeys. The church was eager to embrace the teachings of Paul but didn't have the power and authority of Paul yet. How do we deal with the spiritual issues of our day?

**Pray for:** *our church board and ministry leaders*

**Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Tuesday: 2.1.2011

**Passage:** Acts 19:22-

The Gospel message is controversial. It can radically change your perspective on every part of life. That impact was being felt in Ephesus as its source of income was through the gaga temples. As the Christian movement grew, it began to impact the cult worshippers with fewer traffic to their temples and less sale as the temple stores. What happened next and how did it resolve itself?

**Pray for:** *our community ... those who need to see the church*

**Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Wednesday: 2.2.2011

**Passage:** Revelation 2:8-11

We will not be spending an entire Sunday looking at the church in Smyrna. What do you notice about this letter that is different from the letter to Ephesus? Has your faith ever caused you to be afraid or fear for your well-being? How can we keep our focus on God's Kingdom and not our present troubles?

**Pray for:** *Our Youth Ministry and Youth Pastor search process*

**Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Thursday: 2.3.2011

**Passage:** Revelation 2:12-17

Pastor Steve will be sharing this Sunday about the church in Pergamum. This lenient church had held strong during a season of testing but came out of it blending into the culture around it. Do you notice any similarities to the Christian Church of today?

**Pray for:** *Friends facing job loss*

**Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Friday: 2.4.2011

**Passage:** Numbers 22-25

The stories of this section of scripture tell the stories of Balam. The Nicolaitans who are mentioned several times in the letters to the churches. They essentially are a sect of followers from the "Balamites" who essentially try to distract God followers by ignoring the law and living life the way they want to.

**Pray for:** *Upward Game Day tomorrow!*

**Reflections:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Reflections on this week:** \_\_\_\_\_

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