**Early Morning Bible Study January 19-March 2, 2022**

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***Overcoming: Jesus’ Challenge to His Church—7 Communities of Revelation Lesson 2***

**Living in Love for Jesus—Ephesus and Smyrna Revelation 2:1-11**

**“*Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 2:7, 11***

1. **Ephesus and Jesus’ Requirement of Love Revelation 2:1-7**
2. **Smyrna and Jesus’ Reward for Courage Revelation 2:8-11**

**Questions for Conversation**

1. For what did Jesus praise the Ephesians? What do you know from the history of Ephesus that might have laid the foundation for this strength? How does God provide for His people to have this kind of strength today?
2. What was the Ephesians’ weakness, and what did Jesus tell them to do? (verses 4 and 5) How could this problem appear in seemingly strong churches or individual believers today? How can we avoid this?
3. What is Jesus’ warning in the second part of verse 5? What did He mean? How might this happen today?
4. What are your thoughts about Jesus’ promises to the “overcomers” of Ephesus?
5. What did Jesus know about those in the church of Smyrna, and how does this encourage you?
6. What was Jesus’ call to Smyrna’s church and its members, and what was His promise? How specifically are you called in this way today?
7. Each message to each church contains the call, “Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” This means these messages, though written to specific, real churches, are also for all Christian churches and all Christians. What truth will you take from these messages to these first two churches?

Next week: February 2—Pergamum—Loyalty to Jesus’ Truth—Revelation 2:12-17