

## EPHESUS - FEBRUARY 14

## KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 2:1-7

2 Corinthians 1:8-10

1 Timothy 6:20

3 John

Acts 19-20

1 Timothy 1:3, 18-20

1 John 4:1

Matthew 10:11-15

1 Corinthians 15:32

1 Timothy 4:14-17

2 John

1. What did you learn about Ephesus that you did not know before this message?
2. Of the commendations Jesus gave the church, *hating the practices of the Nicolaitans aside*, which best apply to you and why? Which have you not had the opportunity to practice? What factors would need to come into play for the characteristic you have not needed to be more prevalent in your life? If this is because you've never had the opportunity, thank the Lord that you live where you do!
3. How have you typically understood the challenge of Jesus written in Revelation 2:4—loving Jesus, loving others, or both?
4. How does it misrepresent the truth when we present ourselves in an unloving way?
5. **Pastor Craig showed how the Ephesian church, in addition to being the most taught church, had plenty of experience of opposition that made sacred trust difficult. Such opposition landed Paul in the Great Theater and the Apostle John on Patmos.** Think of a time when you felt betrayed—personally or professionally. How easy was it for you to move past that betrayal? What helped you move forward? How did your relationship with Jesus play into this? For example, did you struggle because He allowed it?
6. **Paul was frequently protected in Asia by the vigilance of believers, yet he allowed himself to be taken to Rome. Let's think about safety.** Where have you felt it necessary to protect others? Have you ever felt it necessary to step away to safety? What makes it either appropriate or inappropriate to pursue safety?
7. **The Scriptures we covered picture a highly mobile Asian-Christian community. Much of this movement went through Ephesus. Hospitality in homes, as shown in 2 and 3 John, likely written to believers some 5-10 years before Revelation and close to Ephesus, was key to the support of the church. Read through 2 and 3 John (noting Matthew 10:11-15).** How do you think a believer would know that a travelling Christian was worthy enough to stay in their home? What lessons should a church learn from this today?
8. **The key lesson the Ephesian Church was asked to learn is what Pastor Craig called, Sacred Trust. Another way of referring to this is "trusting wisely."** What does sacred trust or trusting wisely look like to you personally and in ministry?