

March 29 ■ Lesson 1**Seven Church Letters****The First Letter: “The Problem at Ephesus”**

Text: Revelation 2:1-7

“**angel**” is a possible reference to a guardian angel of the church – or a “messenger” like an elder or pastor of the church.

“**Nicolaitans**” are identified by some as followers of Nicolaus of Antioch (Acts 6:5). They abandoned true Christian doctrine and practiced idolatry and immorality. They may have accepted a form of dualism – regarding the body as being evil (to do evil) and only the spirit as being good. They used Christian liberty as an occasion for the flesh – and lived in shameless self-indulgence. The Nicolaitans were specifically addressed in the third letter to Pergamos.

Memory Verses: Revelation 1:4

1. What are your initial thoughts on this passage?
2. What problem is being addressed in this letter?
3. What does this passage emphasize about Christ – and teach us about God?
4. How is this historic problem a potential problem in the church today?
5. How does this passage impact our views of God, the church, and Christians today?