

**The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – July 31st – Aug 5**  
***Doing Life Together – Seven Churches of Revelation***

**MONDAY:** 1 John 4:1, John 6:6

**KEY VERSE:** Revelation 2:1-7

**OBSERVATION:** "Ephesus" is the most important city of Asia at the mouth of the Cayster River, an important commercial and export center for Asia: Chartered as a free city by Rome, Contained temples to three Roman emperors. The Temple of Artemis (Diana) was four times the size of the Parthenon of Athens and considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Famous Christians who lived and ministered there include Aquila and Priscilla, Paul (Acts 19:8-10), Timothy (1 Timothy 1:3), and the Apostle John (Eusebius, Church History 5.8.4).

**TUESDAY:** 2 Corinthians 8:9, James 2:5

**KEY VERSE:** Revelation 2:8-11

**OBSERVATION:** "Smyrna" is only one of the seven cities still lived in -- modern Izmir. This beautiful, proud city was larger than Ephesus, with a population of about 200,000. Its strong allegiance to Rome resulted in great persecution for Christians. In Smyrna, Bishop Polycarp was burned at the stake for his faith in 155 AD.

**WEDNESDAY:** 1 Timothy 5:8, Isaiah 49:2

**KEY VERSE:** Revelation 2:12-17

**OBSERVATION:** One of the Phrases spoken to this church was "The teaching of Balaam." For more information about this phrase, see Numbers 25:1-3 with Numbers 31:15-16. Balaam's sin involved encouraging the Midianite women to seduce the Israelites into idolatry. Balaam is the prototype of corrupt teachers who betray their listeners into fatal compromise with worldly ideologies.

**THURSDAY:** Luke 1:23, Acts 15:28, 1 Corinthians 2:10

**KEY VERSE:** Revelation 2:18-29

**OBSERVATION:** "Thyatira" was a center for manufacture and marketing, the home of Paul's benefactor Lydia, who was a seller of purple goods (Acts 16:14). Thyatira's numerous trade guilds were inseparably entwined with pagan religious observances posing a special problem for both the spiritual and economic well-being of Christians.

**FRIDAY:** Luke 12:39, 2 Peter 3:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:4

**KEY VERSE:** Revelation 3:1-6

**OBSERVATION:** "Sardis," once a powerful city, had declined greatly by the time John was writing. Yet it was still rich and famous, lying at the western end of a great caravan route from Susa in Mesopotamia. The Sardis church receives the most severe denunciation of the seven; it was "a perfect model of inoffensive Christianity" (Caird). The majority had so fully compromised with the pagan environment that the church was Christian in name only (that is, "nominally" Christian).

**SATURDAY:** Acts 14:27, Romans 12:11,

**KEY VERSE:** Revelation 3:7-22

**OBSERVATION:** "Philadelphia" (modern Alashehir) is named by the Greek word for "brotherly love." On a major trade route, its economy was based on agriculture and industry. It was remarkable for its many temples and religious festivals, with the worship of Dionysis as its chief pagan cult. Earthquakes had often devastated the city. "Laodicea" (modern Eski-hisar) was the wealthiest city in Phrygia. The area was famous for manufacture of clothing from soft, glossy black wool, a banking industry, and a medical school. One of its best known medicines was an eye salve made from "Phrygian powder" mixed with oil.