

UPCOMING EVENTS:

GOSPEL CLASS

8 week class that goes through basic Doctrine in Christianity & what Element believes specifically. Starts TODAY at the 9:30a service! Catchup online and join us next week!
ourelement.org/connect/classes/gospel-class

CONNECT PARTY

This Friday, February 6th, 7pm. Join us for a fun evening filled with desserts, laughter and a chance to meet and get to know others at Element and the connect with the leadership and the church.

WOMEN'S HIKE

This Saturday, February 7th, 10:30am. Meet in the eastern parking lot at Orcutt Community Park and bring your friends!
Contact: women@ourelement.org

ELEMENT MOMS

Weekly meet-ups at the park for kids to play and moms to connect.
Contact: emoms@ourelement.org

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate you can visit www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

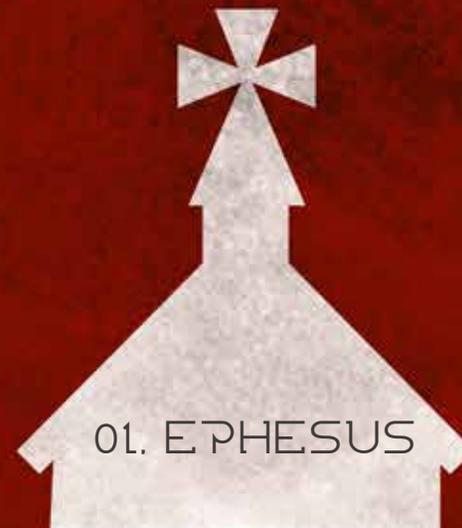
CHURCHES
OF

REVELATION

TODAY'S VERSES:

Psalm 139:23-24
Revelation 2:1-7
Isaiah 49:6
Matthew 5:14-16
Luke 11:33
Acts 19:11-20
Matthew 5:43-45
Luke 5:27-32
Romans 5:10
Ephesians 2:4-5

MY NOTES:



01. EPHESUS

01. EPHESUS

FIRST LOVE & BOMB SHELTERS

CHURCHES OF REVELATION

*Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any
grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*
Psalm 139:23-24

Welcome to Element's second sermon series of 2015; Churches of Revelation. Keep in mind, this series will not be about the end times, but instead will be focusing on Jesus (shocker) and the examination of our souls. We are starting a season that some from other traditions would call Lent, which is the preparation of the believer through prayer, penance, and repentance to reflect on what Jesus has done and continues to do.

**Have you participated in Lent before?
What is your understanding of Lent?**

Lent is a time where we allow God's Spirit to probe our hearts as we confess our sins, it is a season of repentance where we look at what God's light shows when He invades our souls. It is meant to be a journey that eventually leads us through reflection and into the joy of Easter and resurrection.

Read Revelation 2:1-7

This passage tells the history of a church that was filled with the passion of the gospel, but a generation later, the church has become self-focused. Many scholars will point out that THIS CHURCH started because they understood that the world needed to hear the good news of Jesus, THEY WERE BOLD fresh and creative, but somewhere they lost that passion and impulse.

**How did you feel when you first followed Jesus?
Do you find that you are now more or less excited about your faith?**

Mission is the life purpose of every person who calls Jesus his or her savior and Lord. Our mission is first to glorify God, but then become

disciples who make disciples. We are to live in the hope and grace of the gospel, that God has rescued and saved us and we now spread that excitement about redemption to everyone.

What do you think of the idea of church as a bomb shelter?

The church is not designed to be a place of refuge away from a dark and pagan culture, it is supposed to be a light and a blessing. The church in Ephesus had "abandoned the love you had at first." Revelation 2:5 says, "repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place, unless you repent."

**Do you feel you are living your life for you or God?
Where has your heart for mission become more of a heart to
find like-minded people who are easier or simply those who
already love Jesus?**

The word "witnessing" strikes unneeded fear into too many people who profess belief in Jesus. We think the word means passing out tracks or being able to prove ourselves right and everyone else wrong, but Jesus relates witnessing like this: *Matt 5:43-45 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."* It becomes a completely new proposition when witnessing becomes living the gospel, in tangible ways, to our neighbors. It means that the mission is not having to prove we "right," but simply living the hope that Jesus has given to us for the world to see.

Who do you need to share the gospel with?

If Jesus is truly our first love, living the Gospel simply makes sense in light of His grace given to us.