

**Study Questions for the May 29, 2022 Sermon:  
“Church Struggles: Complacency and Fear”  
Revelation 2:1-11**

1. We opened with prayer for the victims of the recent mass shootings.
  - a. If you raise situations like this in prayer, how do you do it? For the families? For changes to laws? Do you pray for the perpetrators?
  - b. What single change to American society would help the most to reduce the frequency of mass shootings?
2. Our denomination is going through painful self-examination regarding its response to accusations of sexual abuse. If you have ever been sexually abused, or observed sexual abuse:
  - a. Did you confront the perpetrator?
  - b. If you have forgiven the perpetrator, how do you do so without excusing, minimizing, or rationalizing the evil act?
  - c. Did you report the abuse to any organization?
  - d. Did you report the abuse to the police or other government body?
3. The church in Ephesus faced the challenge of keeping the faith when ungodly pleasures were ever-present. The church in Smyrna faced the challenge of keeping the faith when doing so resulted in severe persecution.
  - a. Share a bible verse about resisting temptation.
  - b. Share a bible verse about holding to your faith under the threat of persecution.
  - c. Name a Bible character who denied him/her self ungodly pleasures.
  - d. Name a Bible character who stayed faithful under persecution.

4. Take steps 3, 4, and 5 from Pastor Paul's summary of the pattern of the Revelation letters and apply it to Northwest Baptist.
  - a. What is one thing our church does well?
  - b. What is one thing our church does poorly?
  - c. What is one corrective action we can take?
5. The church at Ephesus understood and guarded sound doctrine and was discerning about false teachers. How can we emulate these good qualities?
6. The church at Ephesus had lost their first love: A passion for Jesus. How can we avoid falling into this error?
7. The church of Smyrna was being slandered (verse 9). What strategies should a Christian follow when she is being slandered?
8. One of the reasons that the Smyrna church was being persecuted was that the populace had a great regard for Roman government. How can we avoid the error of allowing our politics to override our religious convictions?
9. Memory test: For what two things did Pastor Paul ask us to pray?
  - a. Hint: NWB will have 2 good qualities.
  - b. Hint: NWB will resemble Smyrna