

Intro: If you have a red-letter Bible, what do you notice about Revelation chapters 2 and 3? *Every letter is red!* After this Jesus is fairly quiet, so to speak, until the last chapter of the Bible.

- I. The One who walks among us (Rev. 2:1)
 - a. This is no distant view from above
 - b. To walk around—*peripateo*—live among, conduct life

- II. The One who knows us (Rev. 2:2-3)
 - a. Jesus is keenly interested in our works and teaching

- III. Holding onto the truth of God's Word is not easy (Rev. 2:3)
 - a. Attacks come from the world (Ephesians 2:2-3)
 - b. Attacks come from within (Acts 20:28-31)

- IV. Losing the tree (†) for the forest (laws/teaching) (Rev. 2:4)
 - a. God's love: 1 John 4:9-10
 - b. Our love: 1 John 4:7-8, 19

- V. Remember, repent, and redo...or else (Rev. 2:5)
 - a. The high state of loving God and others in outreach
 - b. The low state of closing the doors and hiding the Light

- VI. A commendable hatred of the Nicolaitans' practice (Rev. 2:6)
 - a. Hating what God hates (Psalms 139:21-22)
 - b. God hates idolatry—in all its forms (Exodus 2:3-5)

- VII. Hearing, conquering, and eating from the tree of life (Rev. 2:7)
 - a. Hearing and obeying (Rev. 1:3)
 - b. Conquering by repenting (Luke 18:13)
 - c. The tree of death (†) leads to the tree of life

Close: The tree of life was off limits after Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:22-24). The actual tree of life is not mentioned again until Revelation 2. But it's a metaphor for wisdom in Proverbs 3:18; 11:30; 13:12 and 15:4.