

Our First Love (Letter to Ephesus)

October 30, 2014

Revelation 2:1-7

- 1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
- 2 I know thy **WORKS** (*ergon - toil, effort, action, deed*), and thy **LABOUR** (*pain, trouble, weariness, sorrow*), and thy **PATIENCE** (*endurance, constancy, unswerving*), and **HOW THOU CANST NOT BEAR THEM WHICH ARE EVIL:** and **THOU HAST TRIED THEM** which **SAY THEY ARE APOSTLES**, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Philippians 1:9-10

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

1 John 2:27

"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

Revelation 2:1-7

- 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and **HAST NOT FAINTED**.
- 4 Nevertheless **I HAVE SOMEWHAT AGAINST THEE**, because **THOU HAST LEFT THY FIRST** (*first in time, place & rank*) **LOVE**.
- 5 Remember therefore from **WHENCE THOU ART FALLEN, AND REPENT, AND DO THE FIRST** (*first in time, place & rank*) **WORKS**; or else **I WILL COME UNTO THEE QUICKLY**, and **WILL REMOVE THY CANDLESTICK OUT OF HIS PLACE, EXCEPT THOU REPENT**.
- 6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
- 7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Mark 12:28-30

28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the FIRST COMMANDMENT OF ALL?

29 And Jesus answered him, THE FIRST OF ALL THE COMMANDMENTS IS, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30 AND THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND, AND WITH ALL THY STRENGTH: THIS IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT.

- Our “FIRST WORKS” are to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength; to love His Person, to love Who and What He is, to love being with Him, to love worshipping, serving and pleasing Him.
- God wants us to pursue and serve Him because we love Him, not because we are coerced, afraid or obligated.
- Before we pursue obedience to God in any other commandment or effort, we must first cultivate a love for God.
- When we have forsaken our FIRST LOVE, our FIRST COMMANDMENT, our FIRST WORK, our works are self-righteous and obligatory will-worship resulting in spiritual pride, empty hearts and powerless lives.

HOW TO CULTIVATE A LOVE FOR GOD:

- **Time** - *any relationship dies without the consistent investment of time over the duration*
- **Pursuit** - *there must be a deliberate and determined priority to seek out*
- **Communication** - *there is no relationship without lowering the defenses, becoming vulnerable and sharing one’s heart, communication is one of the most powerful conveyances of trust*
- **Experience** - *common experiences are the blending of two independent hearts and lives building trust and a bond which can remain unbreakable*

Psalms 27:4

"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after [PURSUIT]; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life [TIME], to behold the beauty of the LORD [EXPERIENCE], and to enquire [COMMUNICATION] in his temple."