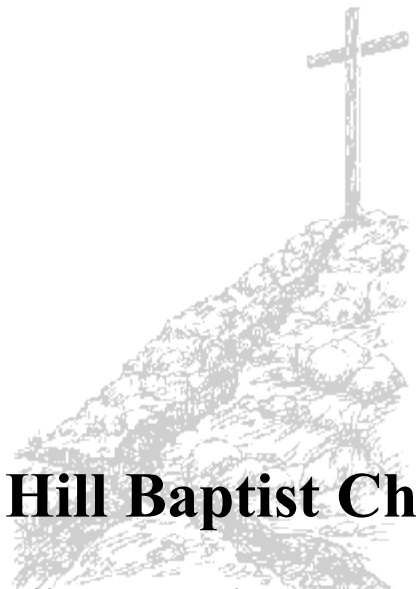


Unto The Angel Of Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7



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FOCAL Revelation 2:1-7^{KJV} 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, and thy labor, and thy patience, 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: {3} And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted. {4} Nevertheless I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. {5} Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first 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.****

Brother John White¹ will begin to teach through the Book of Revelation on Wednesday, January 18, 2006. This is a series that I'm really looking forward to.

Illustrate and Introduce Revelation 2:4 "I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love"

One of the saddest things that can happen to anyone is to lose our love. When love is lost in a family, when the

KJV All texts are King James Version, unless otherwise noted

¹ Pastor John White is available for speaking engagements. Please write or email this ministry for further information.

passion of love dies, the family begins to disintegrate. When love "wax cold" in any relationship, iniquity abounds (**Matthew 24:12**). When the Church stops loving Jesus it becomes an automation, a machine that makes toast for her Husband but who does not care whether He eats or not. A loveless Church hurts her Loving Bridegroom!

Several years ago a steam engine called "The Peavine" ran through our West Tennessee community. The Peavine went as far as Parsons in one direction, and beyond Lexington in the other. The Peavine bound communities together, allowing all to share supplies and people with one another. The Peavine was a steam engine. Though the engineer controlled the train, the fireman kept the steam pressure going by constantly shoveling coal into the belly of the beast. The coal burned hot, making steam that turned the wheels of this mighty engine. If the engine lost its fire, the engineer might as well go home. An engine without steam was unable to do its job. It was no more than several thousand pounds of useless steel and iron. Even so the Church at Ephesus.

The Ephesian Church followed all of the rituals of the faith. Its pastor preached, its members served, but Jesus said "**I have somewhat against thee - you have lost your first love**". Jesus Christ loves us and gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity. He wants us to be "**zealous of good works**" (**Titus 2:14**). But Jesus expects more than mere works from His Bride! We must love Him, because He first loved us. Just as fire had to be in the belly of the Peavine, Love must be in the

belly of the Church. The Spirit of God, like the fireman of old, continually reminds us what Jesus did on that old rugged Cross. We were due to enter Hell, but Christ loved us enough to take our punishment. We had no right to an inheritance, but by His Blood we have been adopted into the Family of God. He has gone to prepare a place for we who believe - what did we do to earn or deserve this future glory?

Condemned by the Law, Jesus not only pardoned us, but He married us to Himself (**Romans 7:4**). The ring He wore on our wedding day was that crown of thorns that so pierced His brow! His "best man" was a tree, and the vows He gave three rusty nails. Oh my Beloved, will you not love Him?

In the early Church Jesus Christ called many different types of people together under His banner of love. Look at the original disciples. Some were tax collectors, some ex-prostitutes, others repentant tavern owners, yet others were fishermen. Jesus called people of different temperament to Himself. Some were patient, others impatient. Some even tempered, others angry. Some were well educated, others ignorant. Some were white collar workers, others blue collar. As Jesus drew these people together He proved the supernatural state of His Church by saying, "**By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another**" (**John 13:35**). How will others - our co-workers, our wives, our husbands, our children - know the Christian faith is true? Will our faith be proved by the number of people who attend our local Church? No, for great masses of people followed Jesus in the first part of His ministry. These

same masses cried out "crucify Him" while a murderer was released in His stead. Will our faith be proved by the size of our building? Absolutely not! The early Church had no building at all, and usually met on Solomon's Porch in the Jewish Temple, or in caverns or private homes. Will our faith be proved by the amount of money we give, or by the prosperity of our members? No, for riches often draw people away from Christ (**Matthew 19:24**). Will our faith be proved by the easy life, by our lack of suffering? No, for God calls us to suffer for His sake (**Matthew 5:11**), calling us blessed when we are persecuted and hated. How then shall our faith be proved?

Our faith is proved by the love we have for one another, by the unity we have in worshiping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Ephesian Church had lost that love, that passion for Christ - and this we must not do! We have often stood on the seashore and watched waves roll in from the sea. The waves are temporary, quickly dying - but the sea is eternal. If we are saved, we are saved by faith in God. This is our Source of power, the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us (**Romans 5:5**). Ephesus forgot where they came from, forgot the Source of their life. Take care, Beloved, lest you forget to Whom you are wed, and at what price you were purchased. May God touch your hearts with these words.

Final Introduction

Each of the letters to the seven Churches has *three*

thrusts or applications.

First of all, the letters have a *personal* application. Churches are made up of people, believers saved from condemnation because they accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. Those who make up the Church have, according to

Romans 10:9-10, confessed with their mouths the Lord Jesus Christ, and believed in their hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead. Because you have called on the name of the Lord and not your own works you *have been saved for all time*. For it is with the heart that man believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth your confession of sin and reliance on Jesus has made your salvation certain².

Each letter to the Churches also has an application to the Church - after all, it is written to the Church. Finally, the letters have a *prophetic application*. I do not intend to deal with the prophetic application of these letters, but will rely on Brother John White to bring this out in our Wednesday night classes.

1. Jesus Knows The Works Of His Loved Ones

FOCAL Revelation 2:1-3 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that

² King James Text, slightly modified by Brother David to blend it into the sermon body.

holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; {2} **I know³ thy works⁴, and thy labor, and thy patience,** 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: {3} And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.

Our Lord Jesus Christ **knows the works of the Christian.** He can see inside of our hearts, and see the motivation or the core or the reason why we do the things we do. The judgments of Christ are not the judgments of man. When we look, we look at the outside of the package. We see the person, the human figure, and see the good work, then commend the work for the work's sake. But Jesus looks beyond the work! He sees our heart. In fact,

When Jesus said "I know thy works" the original text literally states "**I have known thy works with the result that I keep on knowing or perceiving them**".

- 3 Perfect Active Indicative of G1492, εἶδω, eidō, i'-do, A primary verb; used only in certain past tenses, the others being borrowed from the equivalent, G3700 and G3708; properly to *see* (literally or figuratively); by implication (in the perfect only) to *know*: - be aware, behold, X can (+ not tell), consider, (have) known (-ledge), look (on), perceive, see, be sure, tell, understand, wist, wot. Compare G3700., (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)
- 4 G2041, ἔργον, ergon, er'-gon, From ἔργω ergō (a primary but obsolete word; to *work*); *toil* (as an effort or occupation); by implication an *act*: - deed, doing, labour, work., (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

Dr. A.T. Robertson says⁵ that the choice of words here emphasize that the Lord Jesus *has absolute clearness of mental vision* as He reviews the works of this Church.

Two of the most *beautiful and yet frightening words* in the Scripture is *Jesus perceived*, or when our Master said **I know**. When when Jesus told the disciples "**Beware the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees**" His disciples **reasoned among themselves (Matthew 16:7-8)** - and missed the whole point. We read in that text that **Jesus perceived** what they were thinking about, and based on that perception - you can hide nothing from the Lord - the Lord quickly corrected them. When He said "**Beware the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees**" He was not talking about bread, or eating, or picnics, or anything dealing with the physical world around us. Jesus was warning about *doing works before God for the work's sake, and not for God*.

The problem with the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Ephesian Church was not that they didn't work. No! Look at what our Lord says to them:

FOCAL Revelation 2:1-3 **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****

- 5 **I know** (*oida*). Rather than *ginōskō* and so "emphasizes better the absolute clearness of mental vision which photographs all the facts of life as they pass" (Swete). So also in [Revelation 2:9](#), [Revelation 2:13](#), [Revelation 2:19](#); [Revelation 3:1](#), [Revelation 3:8](#), [Revelation 3:15](#). For the distinction see [John 21:17](#), "where the universal knowledge passes into the field of special observation."

know thy works, and thy labor⁶, and thy patience⁷, 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: {3} And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.

This congregation of Christians were *very busy for the Lord*. The words that Jesus use here are very strong. These people *worked*, they *toiled to weariness*. This was a wonderful congregation of believers the words of the Apostle Paul, who cautioned:

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

As a matter of fact, the Apostle Paul - under the guidance of God the Holy Spirit - planted or established the congregation at Ephesus.

Ephesus itself was a pagan Roman city, founded on the worship of the goddess Diana. The merchants of Ephesus made a great deal of money making images of Diana and selling them to tourists.

6 G2873, κόπος, kopos, kop'-os, From G2875; a cut, that is, (by analogy) toil (as reducing the strength), literally or figuratively; by implication pains: - labour, + trouble, weariness., (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

7 G5281, ὑπομονή, hupomonē, hoop-om-on-ay', From G5278; cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy: - enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting)., (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

When Paul came to Ephesus in his *second and third missionary journeys* God the Holy Spirit blessed his ministry there, and out of that blessing came the Church at Ephesus. Paul preached in the Jewish Synagogue at Ephesus for some two years (**Acts 19:10**), so much so that all people - both Jew and Gentile - heard the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ alone. *Apollos*, a wonderfully eloquent preacher of the Gospel, led many to the Lord in Ephesus (**Acts 18:24**), and *Aquila and Priscilla* helped preach and establish the Church in this place.

No my friends, the Church of Ephesus was not lazy or apathetic in its service. It worked hard to spread the Gospel, it worked hard *going into all the world to preach the Gospel*. Before the Apostle Paul left Ephesus he gathered the elders of the Church together and warned them:

Acts 20:27-30 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. {28} Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. {29} For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. {30} Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Did the Ephesian elders - the preacher, the Sunday School teachers, the deacons, the elders of the Church - listen? Obviously they did, for we read:

FOCAL Revelation 2:1-3 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, and thy labor, and thy patience, 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: {3} And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.

This wonderful Church, working hard for Jesus, also encountered a group of people called the Nicolaitans⁸. The Nicolaitans are a sect that grew up out of the worship of Diana. They taught that it was entirely permissible to dally with idolatry and engage in it's practices.

Who were the Nicolaitans?

The Lord told the Ephesian believers:

⁸ A sect or party of evil influence in early Christianity, especially in the 7 churches of Asia. Their doctrine was similar to that of Balaam, "who taught Balak to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication" ([Revelation 2:14-15](#)). (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)

Revelation 2:6 ... this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

The Ephesian Church, to the outward eye, appears to be the perfect Church. It's working for Jesus, telling others about Jesus, casting down false doctrines, and guarding the Gospel message. To the eye they look good. But how do they look to Jesus?

2. Jesus Knows Why His Loved Ones Work

FOCAL Revelation 2:1, 4-5 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; ... {4} Nevertheless I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. {5} Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Just as Jesus perceived the motivation behind what the Pharisees and Sadducees did (**Matthew 22:18; Mark 2:8; Luke 5:22; John 6:15**), He Who holds the seven stars in His right hand, Who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks perceived what was in the hearts of the Ephesian believers. Jesus *knows why* we do what we do - He knows our hearts. He wants our works, He wants us to labor for Him, but He wants our love first and foremost!

a. Jesus Holds His Leaders Accountable

FOCAL Revelation 2:1, 4 **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; ... {4} Nevertheless I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Jesus speaks of *seven stars* and *seven candlesticks* - and these symbols are defined in the previous verse:

Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. **The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.**

The *stars* are the **angels**⁹ - literally *the messengers* of the Churches. God speaks to the **angels first** and tells them the message they are to share with the flock of God. Some theologians define the *angels* as *the spirits of the Churches*. For instance, **Robert H. Mounce** says in **The New International Commentary on the Book of Revelation**:

9 G32, ἄγγελος, *aggelos*, *ang'-el-os*, From ἀγγέλλω *aggellō* (probably derived from G71; compare G34; to *bring tidings*); a *messenger*; especially an "*angel*"; by implication a *pastor*: - angel, messenger., (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

"The angel of the church is not it's guardian angel or the ruling official of the congregation but its prevailing spirit."¹⁰

Bruce M. Metzger states in his book **Breaking the Code - Understanding the Book of Revelation**:

"The message of each of the seven letters is directed to the angel of the particular church that is mentioned. The term angel in this context could denote the local church leader, or it could refer to the spiritual guardian angel of that church. Certainly the consistent usage of the word elsewhere in the book argues strongly for the latter view."¹¹

Though I have a great deal of respect for these men, I believe along with **John Gill** that:

"the seven stars which John saw in Christ's right hand, **represent the angels, or pastors of the seven churches of Asia, and in them all the pastors and ministers of the churches in all the periods of time until Christ's second coming.** Here it may be observed, that the ministers of the Gospel are not only compared to "stars", for which see Gill on Revelation 1:16; but likewise to "angels", which signifies "messengers", as ministers are sent forth by Christ"¹²

10 page 66

11 page 30

12 John Gill's *Exposition of the Entire Bible*

Who were the *angels* of the churches?

These are *Christ's leaders in the Churches*, the Bible Teachers, Sunday School Teachers, Pastors, ministers who carry the Word of Christ to the congregation. The esteemed **Matthew Henry** states:

"With the meaning of the seven stars, that they are the ministers of the churches; and of the seven candlesticks, that they are the seven churches, to whom Christ would now send by him particular and proper messages."¹³

People have, from the beginning of the Church Age, debated over who these *angels* were. **Dr. A.T. Robertson** states:

"Each view is encompassed with difficulties, perhaps fewer belonging to the view that the "angel" is the pastor."¹⁴

and **Dr. Thomas Constable** states:¹⁵

"The "angel" who was the primary recipient of this letter was probably the representative of the Ephesian church who carried this letter, along with the rest of Revelation, to the church at Ephesus. He would have made the letter known to the

congregation when he read it publicly. It seems unlikely that God would have sent the letter to a spirit being. The word translated "angel" usually refers to a heavenly messenger in the New Testament, but it describes human messengers as well (cf. Matt. 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:24, 27; 9:52). Another view is that the reference is to the prevailing spirit of the church personified. However, "angel" is a very unusual term to describe such a spirit."

The view I take of the *stars or angels* is that they are *the messengers* to the Churches.

It has not been Christ's normal practice to send a flaming angel to Rock Hill Baptist Church every time we meet with sermon or a Sunday School lesson, and God always uses the *communication gifts* to preach and teach the local congregation *through humans*:

Ephesians 4:11-13^{HCSB} And [God] personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, {12} for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, {13} until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness.

May I say that the **evangelists, pastors, and teachers** of

13 Matthew Henry's *Commentary of the Bible*

14 *Word Studies In The Greek New Testament*

15 his commentary can be found in PDF format at soniclight.org

HCSB Holman Christian Standard Version of the Bible

the Church at Ephesus strayed from their love to Jesus - and when we who are in leadership stray the congregation will often follow. Those who are called to carry God's message to the Church are called to do so with *fervent passion and love for Jesus*.

Jesus wants the leaders that He has put in His Church to serve Him *out of a heart of love*, not out of a heart of duty.

It is easy to forget that our Lord does not want the work for the work's sake. We all could possibly fall into the Ephesian trap. I more than most know how easy it is to fall into loveless service. God commends us, fellow leaders, fellow pastors, fellow Sunday School teachers, when we follow Him and do the works. But Jesus does not want our works without our love. The Psalmist David said:

Psalms 51:15-17^{HCSB} Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. {16} You do not want a sacrifice, or I would give it; You are not pleased with a burnt offering. {17} The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. God, You will not despise a broken and humbled heart.

What God wants from His servants is *not ritualized service*, but *service from a heart of love*. If you have been installed to teach in or preach in the Church, Christ

commands that you remember to do so from a heart of love! How does God want us to walk or live our lives? We are to **act like followers of God**. How do followers of God act? The Scripture says:

Ephesians 5:1-2 Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children: {2} And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor.

A loveless attitude prevails in a Church when it's leaders *forget* that their place of service is *a privilege, not a chore*. Oh, what a privilege it is to pastor this flock!

What a joy it is to serve Jesus in any capacity. I should be set aside from the presence of God, cast into that Lake of Fire that burneth forever - yet Jesus has blessed me with salvation! **I called on the Name of the Lord and I was saved (Acts 2:21)**! At that moment I was *born again by the Blood of Christ*, and the Holy Spirit of Christ *entered into my life (Romans 8:9)*. Jesus Christ is now - even now - seated in the Heavens at the right hand of God the Father. The Scripture says:

Romans 8:33-39 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. {34} Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also

maketh intercession for us. {35} Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? {36} As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. {37} Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. {38} For **I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, {39} Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The works are fine, but Jesus does not want my works *apart from my fervent love*. If I or you begin to do works without loving Him, our Lord says to us:

FOCAL Revelation 2:4 **Nevertheless I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**

Whatever we do, we must do it out of a heart of love for Jesus! Finally,

b. Jesus Holds His Church Accountable

FOCAL Revelation 2:4-5 **Nevertheless I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou hast left thy first¹⁶ love. {5} Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.**

That phrase, **first love**, means **the foremost love, the first One you fell in love with**. If you are a Christian you became a Christian by *falling in love* with Jesus.

God the Holy Spirit came into your life, opened your eyes, and caused you to be born again. That which makes a Christian is love. The love of God reached out and chose you before you chose Him. The love of God died on a Cross for you two thousand years ago, making payment for your sins. The love of God is so very essential for true salvation. The charge that our Lord Jesus cast at the Pharisees was:

John 5:42 ... I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

The Pharisees had all the rituals "down pat". They knew exactly when to pray, when to sacrifice, when to give tithe, when to do religious service. But their hearts were

¹⁶ G4413, *πρῶτος*, *prōtos*, *pro'-tos*, Contracted superlative of G4253; *foremost* (in time, place, order or importance): - before, beginning, best, chief (-est), first (of all), former., (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

hardened, they had not the love of God in them. This is terrible - but it is more terrible for a born again Christian to lose his first love. **C.H. Spurgeon** said:

"if you are Christians, those days were so happy that your memory will never forget them, and therefore you can easily return to that first bright spot in your history. Oh, what love was that which I had to my Savior the first time he forgave my sins. I remember it. You remember each for yourselves, I dare say, that happy hour when the Lord appeared to us, bleeding on his cross, when he seemed to say, and did say in our hearts, "I am thy salvation, I have blotted out like a cloud thine iniquities, and like a thick cloud thy sins." Oh, how I loved him! Passing all loves except his own was that love which I felt for him then. If beside the door of the place in which I met with him there had been a stake of blazing faggots, I would have stood upon them without chains, glad to give my flesh, and blood, and bones, to be ashes that should testify my love to him. Had he asked me then to give all my substance to the poor, I would have given all and thought myself to be amazingly rich in having beggared myself for his name's sake."¹⁷

How does one lose his first love? We start down that path when we put other things in the place where Christ ought to be.

I am told that during the Great Tribulation the anti-Christ

17 DECLENSION FROM FIRST LOVE. NO. 217 A SERMON DELIVERED ON SABBATH EVENING, SEPTEMBER 26, 1858, BY THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON, AT THE NEW PARK STREET CHAPEL, SOUTHWARK

will set up his image in the Temple of God (**Daniel 12:11; Matthew 24:15**) and demand that others worship it. Anytime something is put in the place of Christ and worshiped instead, this idolatry leads away from the first love. Oh my Beloved, never allow your works to take the place of loving Jesus! Always work for the Lord, but do so because you love Him not because you must. Jesus warned the Ephesian Church:

FOCAL Revelation 2:4-5 Nevertheless I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou hast left thy first¹⁸ love. {5} **Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent¹⁹, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place,** except thou repent.

Jesus told His Church to remember, repent, and return.

Remember from where they had fallen. Remember what Jesus did on that Cross, and remember how salvation was freely offered to you. Remember the inheritance that you have, and remember that you will one day stand in front of Jesus and give an account. On that day what will

18 G4413, **πρῶτος**, *prōtos*, *pro'-tos*, Contracted superlative of G4253; *foremost* (in time, place, order or importance): - before, beginning, best, chief (-est), first (of all), former., (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

19 G3340, **μετανοέω**, *metanoēō*, *met-an-o-eh'-o*, From G3326 and G3539; to *think differently* or *afterwards*, that is, *reconsider* (morally to *feel compunction*): - repent., (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

you say?

Repent, a Greek word which means to *think differently* or to *change your mind*. Turn away from loveless service, and let Christ burn in your hearts once more. The Church is **the candlestick**, not the Light. Jesus is the Light, and Jesus controls the candlestick. If our love dies, Jesus will **remove thy candlestick out of his place** - and the blame will not be on one person but on the Whole Body of Christ. Love Him, worship Him, serve Him from an overflow of love! Finally,

Return to the place you once were. Remember the day of your salvation, and remember the joy that you felt as your **burden was lifted at Calvary**.

**Burdens are lifted at Calvary
Jesus is very near**

The joyous, seeking, fervent, loving Christian is a catalyst that will lead others to the House of God. Where is your heart? Do you love Jesus? Then love Him still!

May God touch your hearts with these words.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED