

P.S. I LOVE YOU

Revelation 2:1-7 / Ephesus

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: ²'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; ³and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. ⁴But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place – unless you repent. ⁶Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'"

Revelation 2:1-7 (New American Standard Bible)

This passage reveals three things about the importance of our love for Jesus Christ.

➤ God Knows Our Deeds (Revelation 2:1-3)

- The Church in Ephesus was established by the apostle Paul. See Acts 19 and Ephesians.

Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. Acts 19:18 (NASB)

- The Lord Jesus walks among us and He knows our deeds.

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely his . . .
2 Chronicles 16:9 (NASB)

Commendation:

- Toil and perseverance – “hupomone” – “to abide under”
- Testing of false teaching
- Enduring for His Name's sake

Question: What deeds does the Lord see in me?

➤ God Knows What We're Missing (Revelation 2:4)

But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

First love – when we experienced:

- Salvation
- His Power over Sin
- Transformation

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:16-19 (New International Version)

Principle: It is only as we love Christ ferently that we can serve Him faithfully.

➤ God Knows What We Need (Revelation 2:5a)

1. Remember

This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, and ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.” Jeremiah 6:16a (NIV)

- What is my testimony?

2. Repent

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NASB)

- What do I need to ask Jesus Christ to forgive?

3. Respond

Principle: God is more concerned about what you do with Him than what you do for Him.

P.S. I love you!

We love, because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19 (NASB)