

Revelation 2

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;

- Rev 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 seven stars are the angels of the seven churches* - The word angel is the is the word for messenger. The messenger to the church is the Pastor. He is being instructed by God how to manage the church that God has placed him over.

- Jesus holds the Pastors in his right Hand. - ***he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand***

- *seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.* - The seven candle sticks are the seven churches. A candle stick was made to hold up and help project the light. Jesus is the light of the world.

- Jesus walks in the presence of the Churches. - ***walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks***

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, 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:

- ***I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience:***

- **Works** = (ergon) To toil as an effort or an occupation. - What you are doing

- **Labour** = (kopos) by implication *pains*: - labour, + trouble, weariness. - How hard what your doing is. The pain that comes from what you are occupied with... IE. labor pains

- **Patience** = (hoop-om-on-ay') cheerful (or hopeful) *endurance, constancy* - Staying under the labor because of the hope of the reward. - *Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

- **hast borne** = (bas-tad'-zo) to lift- bear, carry, take up - to lift something on you and carry it. To put the work of God on yourself and carry the burden of it.

- **hast patience** = (hoop-om-on-ay') cheerful (or hopeful) *endurance, constancy* - Staying under the labor because of the hope of the reward. - *Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to*

please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him

- **hast labored** = (*kop-ee-ah'-o*) to *feel fatigue*; by implication to *work hard*: - (bestow) labour, toil, be wearied. - You are feeling fatigued through the hard work that you have been doing.

4 *Nevertheless I have some what against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

- **Your first love is your foremost or primary love.** You got busy and forgot why you are so busy. You walked with God and served Him because of your love for him. As time passed you lost focus on your walk and embraced the work.

III. Mary and Martha - One was focused on the walk with God and the other on the service for God. God is telling us to return to the walk and let that produce the love.

- **Commandments are to be kept out of a love for Jesus.** *Joh 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

- *Mar 12:29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: Mar 12:30 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. Mar 12:31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

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.

- **Remember** - Go back to the spot that Satan lied to you and choose to believe God

- **Repent**

- **Do the first works.**

6 *But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

- To conquer the people. You stand before God with individual soul liberty. You do not need me to intercede for you. No one is above another though we serve in different offices and have different levels of authority we are all equal at the cross.

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.*

- there is a reward waiting to the overcomers. *1Jn 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 1Jn 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

We're are to serve God because of love and not just for religious practice to gain favor. *Joh 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

Joh 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

- When you find your love falling return to the first things you did when you lived God.
- Love causes you to keep commandments and keeping commandments cause you to love.

*Act 19:17 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and **the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.** Act 19:18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Act 19:19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. Act 19:20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.*

- The Church was converting others to Christ... Soul winning.