

The Revelation to Ephesus

Before launching into the letter, let's get some background

Revelation 1:1-4

This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, to show his servants the events that must soon take place.

The first letter was to the church at Ephesus.

Rev. 2:1-3

As Jesus looked at that church, He saw many positive things.

They were HARD-WORKING, PERSEVERING, DISCERNING, LOYAL.

They were so busy that work and protecting the faith had replaced love.

Revelation 2:4

Listen to Jesus teachings

Matthew 22:36-40

Without Love, all the Ephesians were doing was MEANINGLESS!

Paul writes to the Corinthians about this same problem.

1 Cor 13:1-3 2

It's the little steps that ultimately lead us away from God.

1. People who used to pray a lot gradually stopped praying.
2. People who used to witness to the lost gradually stopped witnessing.
3. Until finally, when Jesus looks at this church, He says,

But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first!

I. WHAT IS FIRST LOVE IN GOD'S EYES?

It is the love that first brought you to Him.

It is the love that cries out, "I am yours O LORD, all yours!"

THAT'S FIRST LOVE.

II. HOW DO YOU LOSE SOMETHING AS WONDERFUL AS FIRST LOVE?

Matthew 24:12

A. Did you hear that? That is the way sin works.

Not by taking giant steps from virtue to corruption, just little steps.

B. Scripture often uses the marriage relationship as an illustration.

Starts out with First Love!

But there are jobs to go to, & stresses to deal with,

Arguments & problems & family feuds & fusses.

The demands become so overwhelming that the love relationship begins to suffer.

III. HOW DO YOU FIND THAT FIRST LOVE THAT WAS LOST?

Revelation 2:5

Here, Jesus gives us a prescription that is very simple & very direct.

1. **Remember** Look how far you have fallen!

If you have lost it, guess where it is. It is wherever you left it.

2. **Repent** Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.

3. **Return**

That's when healing takes place & that's when love is restored.