

You've Lost That Loving Feeling

Revelation 2:1-7

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2 *"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. 4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. 6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

7 *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '*

Introduction

- Review the references to Christ's presence among His Churches from Chapter 1
 - John received a "revealing" from God and was directed to send that "revealing"

...to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." (1:7b-8)

- You'll remember that the speaker to John was one portrayed as...

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, *“Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.*”
(Revelation 1:12–17)

A. Christ’s Portrayal

1. In the Midst of the Lampstands

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands...

- You can almost see the startled manner in which he turns... not fast or anything...but a turning toward the sound and the Lampstands come Into view and then the One in between them slides into vision...
 - Not more than a short bit of time seems to go by and the startled manner - and his eyes widen as he recognizes the “who” that he is seeing!

2. He Was Instantly Recognizable

...One like the Son of Man,

- John had good reason to have such recognition dawn on him and state it in this fashion...
 - He saw One Whom he, until this point, had believed crucified, buried, resurrected and then ascended to heaven!

- According to the gospels, this is the title (Son of Man) is one Christ used most often for Himself during His earthly ministry (81 times in the gospels).
- It was taken from the heavenly vision in Dan. 7:13,

*¹³ “I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.*

- As such, it is an implied claim to deity.

3. Having Dramatic Clothing

- John sees Him...

...clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band...

- **garment.**
 - Most occurrences of this particular word in the Septuagint, the Gr. OT, refers to the garment of the High-Priest.
- The golden sash across His chest completes the picture of Christ serving in His priestly role (cf. Leviticus 16:1–4)
 - There it is used in connection with The Day of Atonement

16 *Now the LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered profane fire before the LORD, and died; ² and the LORD said to Moses: “Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.*

³ “Thus Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with the blood of a young bull as a sin offering, and of a ram as a burnt offering. ⁴ He shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban he shall be attired. These

are holy garments. Therefore he shall wash his body in water, and put them on.

- Hebrews 2:17
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¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

- These clothes would have easily been recognized by anyone familiar with the way in which Priests ministered.
 - In other words, this one Whom John saw at this point LOOKED like a priest...
 - NO ONE who was NOT a Priest dressed like one...
 - ESPECIALLY out in this place, there would have been NO Priest or Priestly imitator!!
- John would have made the immediate connection!
 - That connection would have been set up deliberately!
- We have to believe that this was a purposeful matter!

4. Having a Dramatic Person

¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

- As dramatic as the clothing and appearance of his dress was, the personal appearance was every bit if not more so!
 - “White” does not refer to a flat white color but a blazing, glowing, white light (cf. Dan. 7:9).
 - You’ll remember that Daniel had Vision of the Ancient of Days
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*⁹ “I watched till thrones were put in place,
And the Ancient of Days was seated;
His garment was white as snow,
And the hair of His head was like pure wool.
His throne was a fiery flame,
Its wheels a burning fire;*

- Like the glory cloud (or Shekinah), it is a picture of His holiness.
 - eyes ... **flame of fire.**
 - Like two lasers, the eyes of the exalted Lord look with penetrating gaze into the depths of His church (2:18; 19:12; Heb. 4:13).

5. He Demonstrated Great Personal Authority

¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength

- The altar of burnt offering was covered with brass and its utensils were made of the same material (cf. Ex. 38:1–7).
 - Glowing hot, brass feet are a clear reference to divine judgment. Jesus Christ with feet of judgment is moving through His church to exercise His chastening authority upon sin.
- **voice ... sound of many waters.**
 - No longer was His voice like the crystal clear note of a trumpet (v. 10),
 - but John likened it to the crashing of the surf against the rocks of the island (cf. Ezek. 43:2).

² And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.

- It was the voice of authority.

6. He Elicited Absolute Submission/Worship

¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.

- The implication here is more than just viewing Him...
 - It is the taking in of the implications of what was seen!!

- And it was not just seeing – what he saw and understood struck him down and made him faint!
 - Now THAT is something!!
 - John is not anywhere portrayed in the NT as an emotional or shallowly responsive person.
 - HERE he is overcome by what he sees and what he realizes he is seeing!!
- Notice that he isn't said to just fall – backwards or sideways
 - Rather – he falls “at his feet”!
 - Basically – it is to be seen that he is overcome by what he realizes about what he sees!!
 - An excellent illustration of being completely overtaken with the sense of Worship!!
 - Not that this is what WE are to do...
 - But it does underscore the fullness and thrill who love the Lord and are, on occasion, filled with a sense of worship and awe for the Lord they know and serve!

B. Christ's Introductory Declaration (1:17B-20)

- It is interesting that, though in different terms, the greeting to John is essentially the same as we hear at salvation and upon our continuing growth and service to Him!

1. The Reassurance

But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid;

- On some instances, we can understand that there would be **some sense of “Oh no”!!**
 - But the Lord wants these to be sure that there is no dread or fear...as understandable as such a response might be when one is confronted by One such as John was confronted with!!

- Howq hfsmarvelous is it that the Lord Jesus is first and foremost concerned that any fearful response be calmed and that the one in view be able to see and think rightly!!

2. The Basis of the Reassurance (1:18)

¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

- It almost seems that the description given would NOT be calming – but inspire more and more fear and awe.
 - Remember that John is seeing One Whom he saw die, be buried and risen and THEN ascend to the Heavens!!
- It is clear that the Lord desires a sure and certain understanding of whom is being dealt with on John’s part!

3. The Foundation of the Reassurance

And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

- BTW – the reference to “death and Hades” is essentially a reference to the same matter!
 - They would likely be taken as a reference of the Lord’s control of who dies when...
 - And also of the ultimate destiny that follows death...
 - As what will follow in the book will lead into the thought of Judgement...it makes sense that the Lord suggests this truth!
- It is always good and profitable for us, no matter to where and for what we are soon to move, to keep in mind and at the front of our awareness just what it is we are serving and seeking to benefit and/or accomplish.
 - THIS is what it is that the Lord is seeking to communicate and fasten in John’s mind!!
- NOT just the fact of what He has said but the “why” and “How” of what He will say...

- HE is the One Who stands in control of the key and ultimate concerns in the accomplishment of men's lives!!
- HE is the One Who, contrary to what natural men perceive, HE controls BOTH Life/Death as well as Ultimate destiny!

4. The Command from the One Who Reassures

¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen,

- “Write” reminds John (and us) the things that Christ will/has tells him!
 - Note that there is no possibility for making up, construction, enlarging and/or altering what he has seen...
 - He is simply to report/repeat (on paper) what the Lord showed him!
 - This is NOT something made up or constructed by John
- It is not what many have provided and declared to be revelation of God to them...
 - This is what John SAW...
 - It is a record of what God SHOWED him!
- Now, admittedly, the definition of the record is little different because it ain't exactly a movie for us to watch...
 - But it does bear the authority and reliability of the Apostle/Prophet of God and is underscored by the Spirit of God and His enclosing it in the Word of God!
- There is also the sense of John looking into the future and seeing what has already happened instead of simply being “TOLD” what he will write...
 - This is NOT to undermine the authority of those Prophets and/or Apostles who wrote what God SAID to them...
 - But it IS to emphasize THIS particular piece of Revelation and message from the Father to His people.

5. The Introduction to What That One will Say

...and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

- I've always found it interesting that God phases things here in this fashion!
 - The things which “are” are knowable things that John could look back in his mind to verify
 - He could also ask others to see it there was a validity to what the Lord would tell him.
 - The things which are would lend some verifiability to what had not yet happened (the vast majority of the Book actually!!).
- But the Lord’s intention here is to give some framework of reference for John have for what WILL be said or seen.

6. The Specifics That Assurer Will Address

²⁰ *The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands:*

a. A Mystery

- It is not really very hard to understand just what is said in the beginning of this verse (20)...
 - This was seen back in v12ff
 - It was something that needed to be clarified

²⁰ *The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.*

b. A Mystery of Seven Stars

²⁰ *The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.*

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c. The Right Hand

²⁰ *The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars*

are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

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d. Seven Golden Lampstands

²⁰ *The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.*

- The word “angel” lit. means “messenger.”
 - Although it can mean angel—and does throughout the book—it cannot refer to angels here because angels are never leaders in the church.
 - Most likely, these messengers are the 7 key elders representing each of those churches.

C. The Identity of What Will Be Addressed

...The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

- This is the final “intro” statement to what is coming in the following statements...
 - The word “angels” lit. means “messenger.”
 - Although it can mean angel—and does throughout the book—
 - it cannot refer to angels here because angels are never leaders in the church.
 - Most likely, these messengers are the 7 key elders representing each of those churches
 - Note that v. 15-16 – the description that spoke of the Lord’s holiness, authority and power:

¹⁵ *His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;* ¹⁶ *He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp*

*two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun
shining in its strength.*

- This is One Who exercises absolute authority and power and now, we see introduced that which He has authority OVER!!
- The “Seven Churches” here are well known and familiar to us
- The 1st is the Church at Ephesus

1) A Church that has “left” its’ “First Love” (Revelation 2:1–7)

A. An Overseeing Angel

2 *“To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,*

1. Particular Oversight

- Just to note that this is to a group of angels, but to a single, specific leader of the given church and NOT to a literal angel.
 - The word lit. means “messenger.”
 - Although it can mean angel—and does at various places throughout the book—it cannot refer to angels here because angels are never leaders in the church.
 - Most likely, these messengers are the 7 key elders representing each of those churches.

2. Aimed Oversight

- Note that this is not written to “all of the Church Pastors” but to a specific Pastor.
 - Why?
 - Because of the unique character of this Church as exists under a single Pastor’s ministry and obedience to God as leader!

3. ID’d Oversight

- We note again that this is aimed at a specific Church and leader

- BUT...it is designed to be applied in a more general sense to the Church as an organism as it is developed and grew as time passed.
- Again, not a single church that persisted through the years, but rather, as it gave example to all of the churches that followed through the years.
- We are to take the example given and to think the matter through and apply it in our modern experience (modern through the Centuries)

4. Specific Oversight

- Again, not speaking an overly general matter, but rather asking us to look at the “Church” in general as it exists in specific, individual entities.
 - Nor is it speaking of overall authority – but of the responsibility of each Pastor
- We are not to simply say “The Church ought not be like this!!” (even though it ought not!!!)
 - We are to see this and look at ourselves, at those whom we have ministry to, and apply what it says to our case!

5. Implied Common Oversight

- It is HERE that we think more generally and learn a lesson for us to understand in general terms...
 - After we have thought through the matter in terms of our own lives and the lives and spiritual condition of self and those around us...
 - THEN...we can move forward...
- Note that God sees to it that we see...

B. The Authority Being Exercised

‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

1. Authority Communicated

- This NOT just a good idea!
 - Interesting that we're told that it is HE that is saying it...
 - But we are not JUST told HE is talking
 - We're told the WHAT He is saying...

2. Communications Multiple

*'These **things** says He who holds the **seven stars** in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the **seven golden lampstands**:*

- He is in the MIDST of His Churches
- Can speak to a couple things:
 - First, speaking to Churches and Congregations in general
 - Secondly, Christians specifically as we think and ponder our walk with the Lord individually
- Also, there is also a context warning
 - There is NEVER a time when we He does not see or hear
- As well, there is an encouragement that He is present to be all we need Him to be!

3. Multiple Authorities Shared

*'These things says **He** who holds the **seven stars** in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the **seven golden lampstands**:*

- It is NOT just to a single give Church
 - It is portrayed as being aimed at more than just the Ephesian Church.
 - He isn't just "next to" the representation of the Ephesian Church.
- He's got all seven and stands in the midst of all seven!!
 - It DOES speak to each and everyone that these stars and lampstands represents.
 - There is no question about that!

4. Authorities Absolute

*‘These things says He who holds the **seven stars** in His **right hand**, who walks **in the midst** of the seven golden lampstands:*

- This authority is sure and full because of just WHO this is who stands in this place.
 - There is no question that this is just some human leader of governor.
 - This is not just one who was seized power
 - It is ONE WHOSE authority is natural His!!
- He didn’t just take those stars and there isn’t anyone who just take a stroll among those Candlesticks.
 - This is a portrayal of a place One would have Who exercised authority and influence among and over the scene He is placed in.
- The issue is that this is neither something seized upon nor something allowed – it is a matter that BELONGS to the One in view!!
 - This leads us to the content of the verse 2...

5. Authority Exerciser – Present Where Exercised

*These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks **in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:***

- Just a note that this One, the God, Lord and Authority of the ones ruled, is not sitting up in heaven and making rulings.
 - Even though He does rule, issues instructions, etc. – He does so from a place of “closeness” to those to whom they are given!
- We remember that this “closeness” implies a number of things:
 - Personal Familiarity
 - Caring Relationship
 - Toleration

- Knowing of Situation
- Earnest and Loving Commitment
- Overall Familiarity with Everyone as Applied to the Individual in view

C. The Knowledgeable Basis of the Authority (2-3)

² *“I know your **works**, your **labor**, your **patience**, and that you **cannot bear those who are evil**. And you have **tested** those who say they are apostles **and are not**, and have **found them liars**;³ and you have **persevered and have patience**, and have **labored for My name’s sake** and have **not become weary**.”*

- Not just the familiarity of the One Who creates a thing
 - God DID create us – but the **implication here is of a good bit more in depth familiarity with us...**
- There is also given a **PARTICULAR familiarity**
 - **Likewise**, there is the statement that **some of the things He Knows about us have NOT caused Him** to be elsewhere
- There is the **specific mention of the things He is familiar with that are GOOD things that please Him!**
- There is **also specifically** the fact that they **have stood up for truth and against those who are against that truth!**
- There is **also the fact** that this **ONE who stands** in the midst of the Lampstands sees **4 specific general qualities**:
 - **Testing** those who say they speak for God to see if they actually are
 - **Willing** to ID liars AS Liars!
 - **Perseverance & Patience** resulting in real and successful labor and service for the Lord
 - They **have not become “weary”**
 - **Not Allowing themselves to become “Weary”**
- Allow of this is put forth as **the One seen here evaluates and rates the ones He is amidst!**
- But there is **an exception that He goes on to cite:**

2) The “Exception” Held by That Authority (4)

⁴ Nevertheless I have **this against you**, that you have **left your first love**.

A. It is not the Norm for the ones in view

- The **Ephesians specifically**
- Those who **see and read the Book generally**

B. It Is NOT just a “small” matter

- “**Against**” is a serious word in the NT
- God forgives and/or gives room or space to us for many things...

⁴ Nevertheless I **have this against you**, that you have **left your first love**.

- Here, “NEVERTHELESS” or however
- In spite of or despite,
- There are many, many commendable things BUT this ONE matter overshadows them all!
- THIS is a matter we must weigh as more important than all others!!

C. It Sets the Ones Spoken of Over Against the One Speaking

- This is a very, very serious matter that we NEED to both consider and KEEP in the front of our minds!!
- And so...it does us well to think this matter through and weigh it as to just how God would have us see that it stands in our walk with Him!!
- Just WHAT is it speaking of?

D. It Speaks of a Definite Matter or Action

- It is not just an attitude or manner of thinking

- It is not just a matter of feeling

⁴ *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you **have left your first love.***

- It is NOT something that we have so much lacked or not felt fully
- Just what IS THIS MATTER speaking of?

E. It is Real and Identifiable

- The place they are at now is discernably different that where they were before
 - Again, it is NOT just a feeling
 - Rather, it is a real and certain thing that we can “leave”
 - The implication is that that is more than just a sensation...
 - Why? Because...

F. Where they are is Definably “Worse” Than Where they Were

- It is not just God complaining that His children don’t like Him or just aren’t nice enough!
 - Whatever it is that God is speaking of is definite and specific, identifiable matter...
 - It was an issue that they had upheld at some time and NOW had departed from!
 - They had LEFT their first love!
 - “Left” by the way speaks of “Departing from” with the implication of a deliberate action from a known place!!
- One additional thing to think of is that it appears to be something that is remediable!
- Now, the implication, as it applies to us is that no matter WHAT it is that lies at the basis of what or however we have “LEFT” our first love...it is “fixable”!

- The only thing that **MUST** happen is two-fold:
 - We must recognize that it **IS PRESENT** – we **HAVE LOST** that first Love
 - We must seek the Lord and find the solution from Him and His Word and start putting it into action!!
 - Not to speak of this too simply...but we can speak of it in sure and specific terms
 - How it works out most often will likely not be a matter of simplicity
 - But the point to grasp is that it **IS DOABLE!!!**
- Notice that the Lord goes on an **URGES** another thing that ought to be a part of the foundation for returning to the Lord of our Lord...

3) *The Urging BY That Authority*

⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works,

A. It Appeals to a Known and Rememberable Matter

- One of the first steps...if not **THE FIRST** step is to **REMEMBER** where we were – what it was like before
 - Again, let's remember that this is **NOT** an appeal to build emotions again!
 - It is to both **KNOW** and to understand the depth to which we have “fallen”
- Fallen is a word that suggests that some good depth!
 - It suggest a damaging depth!
 - But the implication here is that it is a reachable depth!
- Note, BTW, the “Therefore” at the beginning of the idea...
 - It tells us a couple things:
 - It speaks of an obvious conclusion
 - It speaks of a logical conclusion
 - It speaks of a reasonable conclusion
- It is a solid, logical, reasonable, and obvious conclusion to arrive at!!

- Now, it also seems to be one that you and I as a believe need, for whatever reason, to be counselled in the godly direction!!
- Remember that, like all men, redeemed and unredeemed, we still struggle with a flesh and, though we do know and interact with the Lord and His Word, we do still NEED God’s counsel regarding many of the affairs of life!!
- Therefore!!
 - When we wander to one direction or another, AWAY from where we ought to be or stay...
 - THEREFORE we need to remember where we were and what that means!
 - We need to get a good hand on where we OUGHT to BE!!!
 - That’s where we’re being directed here:

B. It Directs Us Back to a Position Held Priorly

⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works,

- To head to or to seek to become what we once were...
 - We must know for a surety just what that “before” was!!
 - Let’s take a little look at what the NT tells us about the “love” of a believer for the Lord Jesus!!

4) Love to Christ

A. Exhibited by God.

***Matt 17:5** While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”*

***John 5:20** For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.*

B. Exhibited by saints.

1 Pet 1:8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

C. Manifested in

1. Obeying Him.

John 14:15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

2. Ministering to Him.

Matt 25:40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

Matt 27:55 And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar,

3. Preferring Him to all others.

Matt 10:37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

4. Taking up the cross for Him.

Matt 10:38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

D. An evidence of Being Redeemed.

John 8:42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.”

E. Should be

1. Sincere.

Eph 6:24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

2. In proportion to our mercies.

Luke 7:47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”

3. Supreme.

Matt 10:37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

4. Even to death.

Acts 21:13 Then Paul answered, “What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

F. Promises regarding.

2 Tim 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will

give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all
who have loved His appearing.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for
when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of
life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

G. Those who have,

1. Should be prayed for.

Eph 6:24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus
Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Phil 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still
more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

2. Are loved by the Father.

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps
them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be
loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest
Myself to him.”

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone
loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love
him, and We will come to him and make Our home with
him.

John 16:27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you
have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from
God.

3. Are loved by Christ.

Prov 8:17 I love those who love me, And those who seek me
diligently will find me.

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps
them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be
loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest
Myself to him.”

4. Enjoy Communion with God and Christ.

John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*

H. It Draws a Conclusion Based on the Known and Coming Judgmental Hand of God

- There is a REASON for remembering and repenting!
- Though we can be confident that we stand sure and secure in the finished work of Christ we DO NEED to remember that we are accountable, and we will, then, give account!!
- We ought NOT just kind of say OK, I’m not good!
 - We SHOULD take stock and see to it that we give account to God re: what our lives have contained!

I. It Involves Repenting and Turning from the Sin Involved

- The result of this all is, according to John, is that we must repent and DO THE FIRST WORKS!!
 - Note that John tells us what this “turning back’ has as an essential part of it...

⁵ *Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works,*

J. It Involves an Urging to a Very Possible Return to the “First” Works

- Many, many children of God fall down, fall away more than once.

- Truth be told...for many of us, it happen way more than once!!
- But, thinking of what we have said...this is NEVER a final action
- NEITHER is something that is unavoidable!
- One thing we need to remember is that there are...

5) *The Consequences for Ignoring That Authority*

...or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent

A. Ultimately – It Brings Forth an “Either – Or” Situation

- This is a handy way to think in terms of for this matter...
 - We do struggle with the flesh and at times fall
 - There are times when, though involving a fall...it is a matter that has a negative consequence...
- The “or else” suggests that this consequence, because we are believers is completely avoidable – though we’ve seen that our fleshly nature brings much of the problem.
 - The truth of the matter is that this, the reality of the consequences, non-specific though they are, ought to be something that colors the way in which we handle difficulties and falls into sin
- That known “either/or” reality needs to be something that lurks in the back of our mind as we struggle with the matters of life and, at times, when possible, drives us to obedience and prevents us from falling!!
- We need to remember that We stand in God’s love and in His favor because of the finished work of Christ!
 - When we talk about “results of our falling” we must remember that we are NOT TALKING ABOUT the terrible things the unredeemed face as an end result!
 - Christ has borne those result for all of His children, us included.

- Yet, John tells us here that there ARE consequences!
 - Judgment/consequences WILL COME!!

B. Judgment Will Come into Effect with Little Warning (Other than this one).

...or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent

C. Judgement Will Be Catastrophic in Its' Effect

-

D. The Judgment is Avoidable

-

6) *The Consolation and Encouragement from the Authority*

.⁶ But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

A. There is an Absolute Alternate Truth Present in Their Experience

-

B. They Had a Definite “Hatred” for the Actions of the Nicolaitans

-

C. Their Hatred for Them Echoed and was Patterned After Christ's Own Hatred

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7) *The Urging of the Authority*

⁷ *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

A. The Urging Builds on Normal Human Qualities

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B. It Calls for Our Using Qualities We Already Have

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⁷ *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

C. It Urges Actions on Matters Given to All Believers

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D. It Speaks of Matters Called for in ALL Churches, NOT Just of a Selection of Believers

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8) *The Reward Promised BY the Authority*

To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” ’

A. He Promises This to Those Which He has Called “Believers”

- According to John’s own definition, to be an overcomer is to be a Christian (*See on 1 John 5:5; cf. vv. 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21*).

B. True believers he promises will enjoy the promise of heaven (*See 22:2; Gen. 2:9*).

To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” ’
