



and that's... **The Gospel Truth!!** with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

I believe that one of the most powerful passages of scripture in Revelation is in the second chapter. This is the message given to the apostle John while he was exiled on the Isle Of Patmos and deeds..

The church at Ephesus was a well oiled machine. It had accomplished some great works in the name of the Lord. Here is the letter

Revelation 2

To the church in Ephesus

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lamp stands: I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles, but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. **Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.** Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

The church had received a real big pat on the back for their works and deeds but that searing statement "Yet I hold this one thing against you", should make anyone shake in their boots (or sandals, I suppose). God holds something against us...aaacckk!!! "You have forsaken your first love".

The church at Ephesus has perfected the organizational and philosophical tasks of a growing church at the loss of their passion for God. They were "majoring in the minors", so to speak. Sure they could spot a false prophet a mile away, shun an immoral brother, despise witchcraft and the occult (that's what the Nicolaitans were all about), endure persecution while remaining strong but to what end? They no longer had the passion they had in the beginning for Christ.

That scenario is no at all unlike many churches today. They are so busy with programs, décor, building maintenance, costly mission trips, land acquisitions, committees, and social events that the single most important thing is lost or given only a cursory glance; WORSHIP.

What!?? Why we have "worship" services. It says so right here in the bulletin! The passion and intimacy that God is seeking (John Chapter 4) is not through "stuff". He seeks those who will worship him "in spirit and in truth" for they are the "true worshipers" whom He seeks. That takes passion.

I'll just bet you can remember your "First Love", that first girl friend or boyfriend that totally consumed your every thought. There wasn't anything you would do for him or her. Do you remember how that felt? That almost numbing experience. You wanted to communicate constantly and couldn't stay off the phone. You want to be in the presence of that girl or boy constantly. You told everyone how fabulous he or she was. You had no trouble giving to that love interest. Oh how the passion flowed. And then....one of you forsook the other. How could that happen? That relationship was a "forever" relationship, but something went wrong. Most of the time, it was another person of interest. Someone had "more" to offer.

Bingo! That's exactly what has happened to many churches and individuals in their relationship with God. We have gotten so caught up in "stuff" that we abandon the object of worship which is expressed in our passion not our works and deeds.

Good News!! If we will repent and go back and do what we did in the beginning and return to that passion, he will not remove the presence of the Holy Spirit from us. The lampstand is representative of the illumination of the Holy Spirit and we will have the opportunity to eat from the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.

Go back and do what you did in the beginning. Live you life with passion in every relationship you possess!!! And you will eat from the tree of life!

And that's....The Gospel Truth!!

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