

Lost First Love

Rev. 2:1-7

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Revelation 1:19-20

¹⁹ "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. ²⁰ "As for 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 congregations, and the seven lampstands are the seven congregations.

- Ephesus – Lost love

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- Smyrna – Suffering congregation

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- Smyrna – Suffering congregation
- Pergamum – Compromising congregation
- Thyatira – Tolerant, permissive congregation
- Sardis – Dead congregation
- Philadelphia – Faithful congregation
- Laodicea – Lukewarm, useless congregation



Commission – Character – Commendation

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Condemnation – Correction – Call - Challenge

We should seek PURITY
and MORALITY
as we seek INTIMACY
with G-d.

I. We are to PERSEVERE in PURITY and
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The L-rd desires us to be pure in belief,
and moral in behavior.

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A. G-d KNOWS and SEES all we do.

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Revelation 2:1

"To the angel of the congregation in
Ephesus write:

Acts 18:18, 19-21, 24, 26

¹⁸ Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. ¹⁹ They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent,

Acts 18:18, 19-21, 24, 26

²¹ but taking leave of them and saying, "I will return to you again if G-d wills," he set sail from Ephesus. ²⁴ Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. ²⁶ and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of G-d more accurately.

Acts 19:1, 8-10, 18

¹ It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. ⁸ And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of G-d.

Acts 19:1, 8-10, 18

⁹ But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the L-rd, both Jews and Greeks. ¹⁸ Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.

Acts 19:19, 23-28

¹⁹ And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²³ About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way.

Acts 19:19, 23-28

²⁴ For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen; ²⁵ these he gathered together with the workmen of similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business.

Acts 19:19, 23-28

²⁶ "You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all.

Acts 19:19, 23-28

²⁷ "Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence." ²⁸ When they heard this and were filled with rage, they began crying out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

Ephesians 1:15-16

¹⁵ For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the L-rd Yeshua which exists among you and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

Revelation 2:1-2

¹ "To the angel of the congregation 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 ...

- I. We are to PERSEVERE in PURITY and MORALITY.
- A. G-d KNOWS and SEES all we do.
- B. We are to PERSEVERE and ENDURE.

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Revelation 2:2

'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;

Acts 20:17-18, 28-30

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the congregation. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them, ²⁸ "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the congregation of G-d which He purchased with His own blood.

Acts 20:17-18, 28-30

²⁹ "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Messiah. ¹⁴ No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

2 Peter 2:1-3

¹ But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. ² Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

2 Peter 2:1-3

³ and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from G-d, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Revelation 2:3

and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

II. We are to seek INTIMACY with G-d.

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The L-rd desires us to love Him
always.

II. We are to seek INTIMACY with G-d.

A. G-d KNOWS when we grow COLD.

II. We are to seek INTIMACY with G-d.

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Revelation 2:4

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

II. We are to seek INTIMACY with G-d.

A. G-d KNOWS when we grow COLD.

B. We are to REMEMBER and REPENT.

Revelation 2:5

Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first;

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Therefore 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.

Revelation 2:6

Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

III. We will experience PARADISE and ETERNAL life.

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The L-rd promises believers everlasting joy and eternal life.

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A. G-d sends a MESSAGE to all BELIEVERS.

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Revelation 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the congregations To him who overcomes ...

1 John 5:4-5

⁴ For whatever is born of G-d overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. ⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Yeshua is the Son of G-d?

1 John 4:4

⁴ You are from G-d, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

III. We will experience PARADISE and ETERNAL life.

A. G-d sends a MESSAGE to all BELIEVERS.

B. We will experience JOY and eternal LIFE.

Revelation 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the congregations To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of G-d.

Genesis 3:22-23

²² Then the L-rd G-d said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" -- ²³ therefore the L-rd G-d sent him out from the garden of Eden

Revelation 22:2, 14

² In the middle of its street on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

Conclusion

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1. We are to study, discern, and test the spirits.
2. We are to live moral and upright lives.
3. We are to remember and restore our first love.
4. We are to look forward to joy, life, and paradise.

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