I Know Your Works

Ken Chapman · Revelation 2:2–3:15

INTRODUCTION

- I think we all understand the power of words. Words can affect who we are. Words can change your day. Words can change your life.
- I saw what you did. … your reaction to those words, that sentence, would depend upon one of two things. Number one is who said them. … But also what you had just done.
- What does that mean? And what are the implications for you and I when Jesus can say to his people, I know your works.

1 God Is Omniscient: Perfect Understanding

Revelation 2:2; Hebrews 4:13; Romans 8:29

- Sometimes he says, I know your works, and then he begins to praise them. But other times he says, I know your works. And he begins to condemn them.
- When Jesus says, I know your works, that comes from a place of perfect understanding. We begin with this premise that the Lord is omniscient.
- There's no creature hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
- The scriptures tell us that God has not just perfect knowledge, but perfect foreknowledge. He knows what will happen in the future.
- It's one of those areas of God where we just have to accept by faith. That He knows and sees all.

2 God Will Not Be Mocked

- If God knows everything, then it needs to be established that God will not be mocked.
- You can fool some of the people some of the time. … But you can't fool God.
- Sometimes bad people do bad things. And this in this life, sometimes they get away with that.
- Don't be deceived, the Apostle Paul says. God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap.
- We may get away with things for a time being. But we'll stand before God in judgment.

3 The Importance of Forgiveness: Expungement

Hebrews 10:11–17

- God saw all the bad things I did, or God saw all the good things that I didn't do. What hope do I have?
- That brings fear, but it also should help us to understand, to be keenly aware of the importance of forgiveness.
- That means it's just gone as if it was never there. … we're wiping your record clean. That's what forgiveness is.

- Then he adds, their sins and their lawless deeds, I will remember no more. There's our hope. Forgiveness.

4 I Know Your Works Takes On a Comforting Tone

Revelation 14:13; 1 John 3:19–20; 1 John 1:4

- Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works follow them.
- If you die in the Lord, that means that your sins and iniquities he will remember no more. But what he will see is your faith.
- God's knowledge. It's not just frightening. It should be comforting.
- For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things.
- God has a greater capacity for knowledge, but also God has a greater capacity for forgetting than you do.
- What he knows is that your sins and iniquities he'll remember no more. The Lord knows. And he'll give you rest.

5 He Is With Us

Revelation 1:12–13

- I saw the seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands, one like the Son of Man.
- Where is our Lord? He is there walking among his people. He knows us because he's with us.
- He knows us. And he loves us.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **I know your works. I saw what you did. What do those words mean to you?**

MY NOTES