Leaving Your First Love

Greg Kline · Revelation 2:1–7

INTRODUCTION

- As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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 are the seven churches.
- An amazing insight into how Jesus knows, sees, and observes who and how we truly are.

1 God Knows, Jesus Is Watching

Revelation 2:1; Revelation 1:20

- So when it says that Jesus walks among the seven golden lampstands, he was in the midst of the churches.
- He knew them. He was there. He knows us. He is here.
- What if Jesus was here? How would church services be this morning if Jesus was sitting right up here?
- I just want to impress upon you this morning this singular point. God knows. Jesus is watching.

2 God Knows Even Our Good Things

Revelation 2:2–3; Revelation 2:6; Romans 12:9

- I know your works, your toil, and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.
- And what this proves to me is a few different things. That God knows even our good things.
- Recognize that we have a loving God who recognizes good, recognizes effort, and certainly knows those who are his.
- If we were going to be a church like the church at Ephesus and embody at least the good attributes of them, we need to stand against false doctrine.

3 Repent, or I Will Remove Your Lampstand

Revelation 2:5

- Remember, therefore, from where you have fallen, repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.
- It didn't matter that they were strong in doctrine, apparently. It didn't matter that they had served patiently enduring without growing weary.
- It didn't matter that their doctrine was exactly right. Because something else was missing.

4 You Have Abandoned the Love You Had at First

Revelation 2:4; Matthew 23:23; Ephesians 1:15

- But I have this against you. That you have abandoned the love you had at first.
- And when we come to Christ, is there not that moment in which we are in love with God?

- Because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints. Where did the love go?
- It means to move away from God. It means to forget what it was like and follow the form rather than the truth.

5 How Can I Come Back to That First Love?

Romans 5:8

- But God demonstrates his own love towards us, and that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- And if we remember that every day, how can we leave our first love?
- But we need the grace of God every day. We need forgiveness all the time. It doesn't stop. It's not a one-time thing.
- A second thing that we can do to remember is thinking of all that He has done for us.

6 The Form Doesn't Matter Without the Substance

Revelation 2:7; 1 Peter 1:15–16

- It's not that the form doesn't matter. It's that the form doesn't matter without the substance. And certainly the substance doesn't matter without the God ordained form.
- But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct. Since it is written, you shall be holy, for I am holy.
- To the one who conquers, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **We serve an amazing, all-knowing, mighty Heavenly Father. Do you believe that? If so, it is life-changing, isn't it?**

MY NOTES