

Do The First Works – 06/07/20

TEXT- Rev 2:1-7 5 *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly,*

INTRO –

I. The City of Ephesus

By the time of Paul, Ephesus had become enormously wealthy due to its status and position as a major port city of Asia Minor. It boasted a number of major public buildings, including gymnasiums, theaters and a triumphal arch constructed in 3 BC. In addition, the Ephesian temple of Artemis was lauded as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and was already then a significant source of income

On Paul's second mission tour, he visited Ephesus after leaving Corinth, and evidently planted the church there

Later he left Timothy to pastor the church and the Apostle John after that

II. Jesus Rebuke to the Ephesus Church

- He knows our works good and bad

2 Co 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

- The good works

→ They possessed a spiritual hunger Acts 18:20 *When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not;*

→ They enjoyed fellowship among the brethren

Acts 18:27 *And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:*

→ They had an eagerness to repent and to receive what God had for them

Acts 19:1-5 *And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: . . .*

→ They cherished the Word of God

Acts 19:8-10 *And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. 9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. 10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.*

→ They were receptive to the power of God and to the gifts of the Spirit Acts 19:11-12 *And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: 12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.*

→ They loved Jesus and magnified His name

Acts 19:17 *And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.*

→ They were quick to confess their sin and turn from sin

Acts 19:18 *And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.*

→ They severed all connections with a pagan past at great personal cost Acts 19:19 *Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.*

→ They were faith-filled and love for the brethren

Eph 1:15 *Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,*

- The bad works of the church - They left their first love

All of these qualities characterized this vibrant congregation in its early years. The intensity of their zeal had radically diminished.

Their love for the Lord

Their love for the believers

Their love for the church

Their love for service

- Recall the past and repent

Thus, Christ urged them to remember, to repent, and to do the first works for these reasons:

- Remembering how the fire of God once burned in their hearts. Only by remembering what they used to be could the Ephesian believers realize how far they had drifted.
- Repentance was God's requirement. An acknowledgment and confession of sin was the place to begin. If they were willing to humble themselves and repent, it would lead to their restoration and spare them from impending judgment.
- Repentance demands proof. A person who confesses his sin with no intention of changing is doing nothing more than admitting his guilt. He is not exhibiting genuine repentance. True repentance is always accompanied by corresponding actions. Regarding the Ephesian believers, Jesus made it clear that the proof of their repentance would be a return to a passionate pursuit of intimately knowing Him.

- **Do the first works**

A desire to be faithful to church

Witnessing

The reality of their faith expressed again

Teaching preaching and serving

- **Jesus will withdraw His blessing**

Some people would not know if His Holy Spirit was removed

They hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans

CONCL - Jesus commanded them to return to their “first works.” He was referring to the words, deeds, and activities that characterized the Ephesian congregation at the beginning of their spiritual journey when they first fell in love with Jesus Christ.