

# Coming Back

Revelation 2:1-7

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## When The Right Things, Are Not the Right Thing

Revelation 2:1-7

Pruning our rose bush...

### (1) Introduction

- Seven stars
- Seven lampstands (Light of the world)

Matthew 5, not hidden but divinely placed in strategic places.

To get a letter of encouragement would be amazing!!! Hey guys, gather around... we have a message from the King, listen up!

### I Know

Revelation 2:2-3

Know: knowledge & understanding, to be acquainted with all our ways

To behold with the eyes, to have understanding

Matthew 9:2 - Paralytic "when" He "saw their faith..."

Psalm 139:1-3

*To be a body of believers who have been faithful to the call, diligent to remain pure, busy about their Father's business, and then hear, "I know your works"; such a sweet encouragement.*

### Sacrifice

- *Your works* (What you do) **effort**, none being accidental.

**Whatever you have put your hands to do, made up your mind to accomplish.**

From our daily occupation to the ministry in which the Lord has given us  
*Whatever you do, the Lord sees it.*

- *Your Labor* (Not just what you do but how you do it).

**Grief, sorrow, toil, and difficulty**

*When a woman is pregnant and goes into labor.*

Resisting evil, pursuing forgiveness, loving their enemies

Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God."

- Putting your hand to the plow (the what).

- Not looking back (the how).

Think of how hard it must have been to be part of the early church born out of pagan idolatry.

- Integrity in your business
- Honor in your marriage
- Faithfulness in ministering (the little things)

### - Your Patience

**When do you need patience?** When you are being impatient.

When there is serious opposition, trials, difficulty.

*The temptation to flip out and take control, to operate in the flesh rather than in faith*

Romans 5:3 - and not only that but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

James 1:2-3 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Luke 8:15 - but the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

1 Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

**Aren't there times where the greatest temptation isn't big sin, just surrender?**

Galatians 6:9 - and let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

*vs. 3 you have persevered and have patience...*

**Patience: not to be swerved from your deliberate purpose...**

No matter what life throws at you or who pulls on you... your eyes are fixed on Jesus.

No matter what comes our way, the Lord is not detached from it.

*Though I walk through the valley... you are with me.*

I know your works, labor, patience...

## Sacrifice

## Serious

- *Cannot bear those who are evil.* Those who set out to cause harm,
  - Sow division
  - Solicit sin and lead others away

- *You have tested those who say apostles and are not*

Matthew 7:15 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. "You will know them by their fruits.

By their fruit or by the results of their actions

*"My what big teeth you have"*

Philippians 1:9 - And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment.

**Sacrifice**

**Serious**

**Sincere**

Revelation 2:3

- Your motive (My names sake)

Building the right kingdom

People will never say you have too much...

- Money
- Education
- But don't become too spiritual

(There is a kingdom where thieves cannot break into, moths cannot eat away at, there is an inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled and does not fade away... invest into that one.)

(6) you hate (like I do - perfectly) the deeds of the Nicolaitans

Faith mixed with the world

Master justifiers of their own faults but never looking past someone else's?

Option One: Followers of a man named Nicolas (one who conquers the people) who some say may have risen to a position of influence in the early church but went after false doctrines, holding to "the doctrine of Balaam" who taught Israel to compromise through idol worship and sexual immorality.

Option Two: Name comes from the Greek word Nicolah (Let us eat).

2 Peter 2:12-17

Jude 1:4 - For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Clement of Alexandria: "They abandoned themselves to pleasures like goats, trading a life of self-indulgence." Their teaching perverted grace and replaced liberty with license.*

You have;

- Sacrificed
- Taken the call serious
- Been sincere

**However...**

Revelation 2:4-5

*I have something against you... WAIT, WHAT?!*

Luke 10:38-42 (Mary, Martha syndrome)

*"Doing all the right things doesn't mean you are doing the right thing."*

**A father who has a son that is incredibly obedient but very distant.**

George Whitefield

Robert Robinson saved in 1755

3 years later wrote: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

*Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.*

*Here's my heart Lord, take, and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

**Respond;** say something... **like when a kid is frozen when caught.**

- Remember where you have fallen from.
- Repent and to the first works.

**WHAT ARE THE FIRST WORKS?**

**How important is this anyway?**

The temptation is to justify.

The danger is to downplay.

**OR ELSE!!!**

- *I will come to you quickly*
- *I will remove your lampstand*

**STONE IS EVERYTHING**

*I'll only let you get so far...*

The Lord is more interested in who you are than how He could use you.

The Lord is more in love with you than He is with what you can do for Him.

*May we never forget that when compared to our perfect, holy, loving Savior, our righteous deeds are still just filthy rags.*

**JESUS FIRST, GOOD STUFF SECOND**

*Come though fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.*

*Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.*