

“RETURNING TO OUR FIRST LOVE”

March 11, 2007

INTRODUCTION

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37-39

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH IS _____

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be **to the praise of his glory**. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, **to the praise of his glory**.

Ephesians 1:11-14

To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:21

RETURNING TO OUR FIRST LOVE

Revelation 2:2-7

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. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 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. Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:2-7

THE GOOD: _____

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. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary... Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Revelation 2:2-3, 6

THE BAD: _____

But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. **Revelation 2:4**

1. _____

Thus says the LORD, "I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride... Thus says the LORD: "What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?... For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water. **Jeremiah 2:2, 5, 13**

2. _____

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. **1 John 3:16-18**

3. _____

And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. **Matthew 24:12-14**

THE COMMAND: _____

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. **Revelation 2:5**

THE PROMISE: _____

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. **Revelation 2:7**