

7

KEYS

for growth & change

Each of these churches is receiving a letter. In the letters are several components.

- The Correspondent (who is writing the letter)
- The Church
- The City
- The Commendation (the good things about the church)
- The Condemnation (what is bad about the church)
- The Command (what should be done)
- The Counsel (Instructions to anyone who will heed them)

***“The opposite of love is not hate. It’s indifference.
The opposite of success is not failure. It’s indifference.
The opposite of life is not death. It’s indifference.”***

“The one who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lamp stands says this, ‘I know your deeds. I know your toil and your perseverance that you cannot endure evil men and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles and they are not and you found them to be false. You have perseverance and endured for My name’s sake and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen. Repent and do the deeds you did at first or else I am coming to you and will remove your lamp stand out of place unless you repent. Yet this you do have. That is you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitians which I also hate. He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will grant to eat of the Tree of Life which is in the paradise of God.” Revelation 2:1-7

How do we keep first things first?

1. YOU’VE GOT TO LISTEN TO JESUS.

v. 1 “The one who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lamp stands says this...”

v. 3 “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecies and heed the things that are written in it for the time is near.”

Jeremiah 7:26 “They did not listen to Me or incline their ear but stiffened their neck. They did more evil than their fathers as a result.”

2. DON'T HIDE BEHIND A **BUSY LIFE**.

"I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance that you cannot endure evil men. You put to the test those who call themselves apostles. They are not and you found them to be false. You have perseverance and you've endured for My name's sake and you've not grown weary."

Charles Swindoll says, *"Busyness rapes relationships. It substitutes shallow frenzy for deeper friendships. It feeds the ego but starves the inner man. It fills a calendar but fractures a family. It cultivates a program that plows under priorities. Many a church boasts about its active program, something for every night of the week for everybody. What a shame. With good intentions the local assembly can create the very atmosphere it was designed to curb."*

3. ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR **FIRST LOVE** IS JESUS CHRIST

2:4 *"But I have this against you that you have left your first love."*

Philippians 3:8 *"More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."*

4. TAKE SOME STEPS TO **RETURN** TO YOUR **FIRST LOVE** FOR CHRIST

Revelation 2:5 *"Remember therefore from where you have fallen. Repent and do the deeds you did at first or else I am coming to you and will remove your lamp stand out of place unless you repent."*

Moment of insight: Remember – Repent – Repeat

Remember:

Repent:

Repeat:

2:7 *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life which is in the paradise of God."*