

## Getting Back to our First Love/Sunday, March 18, 2018

There are many pitfalls in trying to lead the Spiritual life. One of them involves being too busy. This can occur in the lives of individual believers. But it can also occur in churches. Churches can become too busy with programs and doing and serving that they lose track of the main objective. Although in many cases they might be doing all the right things, they might have the right kind of zeal, they might be receiving the right kind of teaching, they lose track of their first love. This occurred in one of the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3. This church is the church at Ephesus. Ephesus was a sound church. It had deeds. But somewhere along the line the church at Ephesus lost focus on their first love, The Lord Jesus Christ. Losing our first love will be the main focus of our session this morning.

**1 Corinthians 3:4** For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men?

**Daniel 9:6** Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land.

**John 5:39** You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works

**John 14:23** Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

**John 15:5** "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit,

**1 Thessalonians 1:2-3** We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father

**1 John 4:11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**Colossians 3:23** Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

**Matthew 10:37** He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

**Psalms 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

**1 John 4:19** We love, because He first loved us.

**Deuteronomy 6:5** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

**Deuteronomy 30:6** "Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

**Joshua 22:5** Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

**Psalms 31:23** O love the Lord, all you His godly ones!

**Psalms 69:34-36** Let heaven and earth praise Him, The seas and everything that moves in them. 35 For God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah, That they may dwell there and possess it. 36 The descendants of His servants will inherit it, And those who love His name will dwell in it.

**Psalms 116:1-2** I love the Lord, because He hears my voice and my supplications. 2 Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live.

**Matthew 22:37-38** And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.

**John 14:15** If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

**Ephesians 6:24** Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

*The word zeal, refers to an eager desire or endeavor, or an enthusiastic diligence to accomplish something.*

**Romans 10:1-4** Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. 2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. 3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

**Philippians 3:6** as to zeal, a persecutor of the church