The Church in Ephesus: Love Grown Cold
Revelation 2:4

Introduction:

1. It is possible to seem healthy on the outside, but on the inside, suffer from heart disease.
2. While on Patmos, John received a revelation. (Rev. 1.9)
3. The church in Ephesus started out strong, but somewhere along the way, they developed a heart problem. (Eph. 1.15; Rev. 2.1-7)

I. REMEMBER WHERE YOU WERE

A. **Revelation 2.5:** *"Remember therefore from where you have fallen"* How was Ephesus described?
   1. **Revelation 2.1-3,6:** The positive. (Acts 20.29,30)
   2. **Revelation 2.5:** Who did they used to be? (Acts 19.19)

B. It is possible to be active and still be lost.
   1. The unperceivable drift. (Heb. 2.1)
   2. How do you know you drifted? Remember! (Luke 15.17)

II. REPENT OF WHERE YOU ARE

A. **Revelation 2.5:** *"Repent"*
   1. **Revelation 2.4:** What was their sin?
   2. Repent (metanoao): Verb demands immediate action.

B. It is possible to work without love. It's about a relationship.
   1. **1 Corinthians 13.1-3:** Without love, nothing matters.
   2. We must put the emphasis on our relationship.

III. REPEAT WHAT YOU DID AT FIRST

A. **Revelation 2.5:** *"do the first works"*
   1. What was the difference between their current works and their first works? (cf. 2 Cor. 5.14; John 14.15).
   2. **Revelation 2.7:** The promise to those who overcome.

B. It is possible to rekindle your love for Jesus.
   1. Love is not a feeling, but a command. (Matt. 22.37)
   2. Keep your eyes fixed on the promise. (2 Cor. 4.16)

Conclusion: Will we heed the warning?

Northside Church of Christ **November 8, 2026**
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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

November 8, 2026

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Bible Class : 9:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship: 9:50 am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 pm

The Corruption of the Bible

Those who reject the Bible as the word of God point to it being corrupted. Muslims, Mormons, and even those claiming to be Christians, claim that since the Bible has been corrupted over the centuries, we cannot turn to the Bible as a reliable guide to discern the will of God for man. There are two problems to this claim.

First, those who make the claim are inconsistent. Most who claim that the Bible is corrupted are quick to point out that only some of the message has been altered while other parts of the message have been preserved. Which parts of the Bible are corrupted and which parts have been preserved? It depends on what they believe. If a passage supports their theology, then that is part of the Bible that has been preserved. But if a passage goes against their own belief system, then that passage must have been corrupted.

Second, those who make the claim fail to trust in the power and providence of God. In 1 Peter, the apostle described the word of God as *"abiding."* Literally, "to stay." To support his claim, he quotes the prophecy of Isaiah that says that *"the word of the Lord remains forever"* (1 Pet. 1.24,25; Isa. 40.6-8). Of interest, Isaiah 40 teaches the power of God (Isa. 40.12ff). Therefore, to say that the Bible is corrupt is to say that God's power is limited, and He does not have the ability to ensure that His word will persevere.

The fact is that we can trust the Bible, and we must trust its teachings if we want God's approval (2 Tim. 2.15). CLP

Jesus: The Source of Our Zeal

Acts 18:25

Introduction:

1. Christians are to be "fervent in spirit.," Literally, be on fire.
2. The end of Acts 18 records the beginning of Paul's third missionary journey.
3. In Ephesus, we read five groups who exemplify what happens when Jesus gets into your heart.

I. BREAKING DOWN THE TEXT

A. The zeal of Apollos.
   1. **Acts 18.24,25,28:** Zeal changed his religion.
   2. **Acts 18.28:** Zeal drove him to the scriptures.
   3. **Acts 18.25:** Zeal moved him to talk about Jesus.

B. The zeal of the disciples.
   1. **Acts 19.1:** *"finding some disciples"* (cf. Eph. 4.5)
   2. **Acts 19.2,3:** Faith and baptism are connected.
   3. **Acts 19.4-6:** Their lives were changed because of Jesus.

C. The zeal of the Gentiles.
   1. **Acts 19.8,9:** Paul preached in a lecture hall.
   2. **Acts 19.10:** *"all who dwelt in Asia heard the word"*

D. The zeal of the magicians.
   1. **Acts 19.11-16:** Some tried to cast out demons.
   2. **Acts 19.17:** The impact of this event.

E. The zeal of the silversmiths.
   1. **Acts 19.23,24:** Zeal for the goddess Diana. (v. 35)
   2. **Acts 19.26:** Paul's message affected their trade.

II. APPLYING THE PASSAGE

A. Zeal will compel us to be baptized.
   1. **Acts 19.5:** *"When they heard this, they were baptized"*
   2. Baptism is still required. (Mark 16.16; Acts 2.38)

B. Zeal will help us overcome spiritual demons.
   1. **Acts 19.13-20:** Without Jesus, demons will remain.
   2. **Acts 19.18,19:** *"confessing and telling their deeds"*

C. Zeal will eliminate our idols.
   1. **Acts 19.21-41:** People were giving up their idols.
   2. What idols do you serve today? (Col. 3.5).

Conclusion: Is Jesus burning inside of your heart?

Your Presence is ~~Requested~~ Required

Growing up, missing worship and Bible class was a rarity. It didn't matter whether it was Sunday morning, evening, or Wednesday night. You never had to decide whether or not to come to services. You never wondered whether you should go. You just showed up. Because it was assumed that everyone would be there, your absence was conspicuous. But it seems we have become very casual with our attendance. Many dismiss Wednesday Night Bible class. Sunday Evening worship services are viewed as optional. And before you know it, even skipping Sunday morning is seen as acceptable. But in the mind of God, missing services except for obvious reasons is not acceptable.

Worship is desired. Jesus told the woman at Jacob's well that *"the Father is seeking such to worship Him"* (John 4.23). The word translated as "seeking" means "desire." Assembling together to worship God is not a tradition. It is not to be viewed as something that we can attend if we desire. Worship is what God desires from us. If the Creator of all things desires something of us, how can we refuse it? But it is not only desired by God, it should be desired by us. The very concept of worship is to express your praise and gratitude toward God. When we think about all that God has done for us, how much Jesus has suffered for us, how can we not feel the desire to come together and express our gratitude? To decide not to come to worship is to be ungrateful.

Worship is required. Going back to the woman at Jacob's well, Jesus said that *"those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"* (John 4.24; cf. Heb. 10.25). Two points of interest are found in this word "must." First, it is a word that means literally, "to bind." This is a word that suggests that worship is an obligation. We are bound to worship. Second, it is a word that is in the form of an ongoing action. The idea is that worship is not a one and done activity. God expects us to come together and worship continually. That is why you read the phrase, *"the first day of the week"* (Acts 20.7; 1 Cor. 16.1,2). In the Greek construction, the phrase means literally, "the first day of every week." Worship was a continued weekly obligation.

The question that keeps coming to mind is why. The question isn't "why should we worship?" The question is, "Why do we not worship?" What is it that makes us wake up Sunday and ponder whether or not to attend the worship of the church? What makes us sit on our couch Sunday evening and decide to stay home? Why do we lack the desire to spend time with God's word with our brethren on Wednesday Night? If worship has become optional to you, the day will come when Jesus will be asking you that question. What will you answer? CLP