

Problem:

losing our first love

Lk 10:38-42 - for martha - her worship became mere work, her devotion mere duty...she did not choose the good portion

If you asked twenty good men to-day what they thought the highest of the virtues, nineteen of them would reply, Unselfishness. But if you asked almost any of the great Christians of old he would have replied, Love. You see what has happened? A negative term has been substituted for a positive, and this is of more than philological importance. The negative ideal of Unselfishness carries with it the suggestion not primarily of securing good things for others, but of going without them ourselves, as if our abstinence and not their happiness was the important point. I do not think this is the Christian virtue of Love.

- C.S. Lewis (weight of glory)

Main Idea:

Our lesson from Ephesus:

A diligent, dedicated, discerning church

that loses its love

will soon lose its light

its good to hate the darkness

its better to drive it out

Implication:

has your love become labor

your devotion become duty

your worship become work

your marriage become negotiation

your parenting become childcare

welcome to the world - but take heart He has overcome the world

Abide in Him

Application:

and when we do it will not be our love that shines but His

text:**Our lesson from Ephesus:**

Rev. 2:1 "To the **angel** of the church in **Ephesus** write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who **walks** among the seven golden lampstands.

angels - Lk 7:24, 27; 9:52

Ephesus - our lesson from Ephesus - Rev 1:3-4, 20; 22:16

walks - the priest king - rev 1:12-13;

walking among the lamp stands - Exodus 27:20-21

A diligent, dedicated, discerning church

Rev. 2:2 ¶ " 'I know (have known) 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.

Rev. 2:3 I know (inserted) you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

Ephesus did well - acts 19:18-41; 20:17-32; eph 4:11-16

that loses its love

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

diligence without devotion; serving in the flesh; labor without love - 1 Cor 13:1-13

love is primary motivator - Mat 22:36-38; 10:37

abandoned - without it you become an idolator - Jer 2:1-13

will soon lose its light

Rev. 2:5 **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.

remember - Jn 13:34-35; 1 Jn 2:7-11; 3:10-18

repent and repeat do what you did- eph 1:15; 3:17-19; 5:2

remove light - matt 5:13-16

(He promised to build His Church not BRC - matt 16:18)

its good to hate the darkness

Rev. 2:6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

similar to balaam - rev 2:14-15

its better to drive it out

Rev. 2:7 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.'

conquers duty with devotion (in this case)- (rev 2:11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21)

implication: same word for overcome jn 16:33 - > He overcame

application: abide in Him - Jn 15:1-17

end and when we do its not our love that shines but His - 1 jn 4:7-12

articles for further study:

<https://www.reviveourhearts.com/articles/40-evidences-left-your-first-love/>

<https://gotquestions.org/left-first-love.html>