

“The Worst Thing to Forget”

Revelation 2:4&5

I. “Left thy first love”

A. Why leave your first love?

Deuteronomy 8:12-15, 18 would suggest that Israel no longer felt their need for a love relationship with God once they were out of the wilderness.

II. “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen”

A. God remembers how sweet the relationship was while Israel was in the wilderness. **Jeremiah 2:2** God remembers, can we?

III. “Repent and do the first works”

A. Does it matter enough for us to make this effort?

Yes it matters! Why?

1. Our relationship of love with Jesus matters because God works with love.

According to **Jeremiah 31:3**, love is what draws us to Him.

Hosea 2:6,7,&13 states that love is what pulls us out of our unfaithfulness.

“The gospel is to be presented, not as a lifeless theory, but as a living force to change the life...In Christ is the tenderness of the shepherd, the affection of the parent, and the matchless grace of the compassionate Saviour. His blessings He presents in the most alluring terms. He is not content merely to announce these blessings; He presents them in the most attractive way, to excite a desire to possess them. So His servants are to present the riches of the glory of the unspeakable Gift. The wonderful love of Christ will melt and subdue hearts, when the mere reiteration of doctrines would accomplish nothing.”

The Desire of Ages, page 826

2. Our relationship of love with Jesus matters because the Great Controversy that is raging has at its center the issue of fear versus love.

2 Timothy 1:7 says that God has not given us fear but love.

1 John 4:18 says that love is the only way to get fear out of our lives.

3. Our relationship of love with Jesus matters because love is what will protect us in the *Time of Trouble*. “Because he loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.” **Psalms 91:12-14 (NIV)**

IV. What are our “first works” that we need to do?

A. This will be different for each one of us.

When in the past did you strongly feel Christ’s love for you?