

YOU'VE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELIN'

July 30, 2023 Revelation 2:1-7 by Bob Branch
Standing In The Fire, part 4

The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ.

“For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed (unveiled)” **Romans 1:17**

BIG IDEA: For Jesus, how you love is the most important aspect of your life—both in his direction and toward others. Everything else supports this.

READ Revelation 1:9-2:7

¹ **“Write to the angel of the church in Ephesus: *angelos*.**

Supernatural Being, Teacher, Messenger (4:1; 8:3; 10:1)

Thus says the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands: (1:16; 2:1)

I know. (Heb. 4:13; 2 Pet. 3:10; Mt. 10:26).

² **I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them to be liars.**

Involved, Labor, Enduring, Care about truth, Identified players (Acts 20:28)

³ **I know that you have persevered and endured hardships for the sake of my name, and you have not grown weary.** (Rom. 12:11-14)

⁴ **But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first.** First love.

“We love because he loved us first.” 1 John 4:19

“I remember how eager you were to please me as a young bride long ago, how you loved me and followed me... “What did your ancestors find wrong with me that led them to stray so far from me?” **Jeremiah 2:2, 5 NLT**

“I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy, because I have promised you in marriage to one husband—to present a pure virgin to Christ. But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be seduced from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” **2 Cor 11:2-3**

Love for God or Loving others (Jn 13:35; 1 Jn. 3:14; 4:7-8).

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” **Matthew 22:37-39**

What happened? *aphiemi*, released, let go, abandoned.

⁵ **Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.**

Remember

Repent (Mt. 4:17; 3:8; Lk. 5:32; Rev. 3:19)

Do what you did

Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. (Mt. 24:12)

⁶ **Yet you do have this: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.** (12:15)

⁷ **“Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.** (Mt. 11:15; 13:43)

To the one who conquers, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God (Gen. 2:9; 22:2)