

Kingdom Foundations

Part 11

Evangelism & World Missions

“THE MAIN THING”

To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, “These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lamp stands: ‘I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for my name’s sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.’”

Revelation 2:1-4

My goal today is not to teach something new or to preach an awesome message, but to bring a message that confronts, encourages and challenges us to a change in our life.

1. **ERROR OF THE EPHESUS CHURCH-** We would do well to learn from their mistake.

(Church history note: After the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, Ephesus became the center of Christian life and activity in the East, around A.D. 90.)

The church had left their first love. Their hearts were no longer on fire for the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **What We Have Come to Be**

It is easy to get into religious activity, personal routine, continued church attendance without commitment.

- **Danger, Will Robinson! Danger!**

“[...] or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place—
unless you repent.”

Revelation 2:5b

This message to the Ephesus church means a spiritually catastrophic disaster. That church no longer exists. If we left ourselves in this situation without repentance and a change of heart, we would be in bad shape at the end of the story.

- **A Call to Repentance**

“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works...”

Revelation 2:5a

It is so easy to forget where we came from and what great things the Lord has done for us.

2. THE MAIN THING

**"The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing."
Stephen R. Covey**

We need to understand and to always remember that the MAIN THING in church life is **EVANGELISM**. *It is easy to lose track of the main purpose.*

3. EVANGELIZE LIKE JESUS

Many of us have heard that "Jesus' method or system was effective." Regarding evangelism, Jesus had a *lifestyle*. Yes, Jesus had a method, but it was to present God's Kingdom truths to people.

***To Share the Good News to Mankind Shouldn't Be Either a Method or a Burden.
It should be a Lifestyle.***

4. WORLD MISSIONS

World Missions is a result of evangelism that begins in a city or country. Then it spreads to other places. (See Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

Therefore, World Missions is a cycle of church planting oriented tasks that allow the church to multiply itself.

- **There is a difference between world missions and a mission trip.**
World missions it is an ongoing church planting work in a certain place, city or country. A mission trip is a short term work supporting the existing church planting that has started in a place. We can do both.

CONCLUSION

"Remember, therefore, from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place—unless you repent. "[...] he who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 2:5, 7

- **For your ears only**
The message to the Ephesus church is a message to Christians today as well. Those who "have ears" in all churches fail to listen, and they **ignore** what is said (v.7). Quite simply, if they --if we-- do not pay attention, we will lose our identity and cease to exist.

They (*the Ephesus church*) ceased to exist. Do you want your church to be removed? **I don't!**