



LOVE SO AMAZING

The Love of Christ Exhibited

Specifically to Each of the Churches in Revelation Rev. 2:1-6

2022 THEME

EPHESUS

Rev. 2:1 Unto the angel of **the church of Ephesus** write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven goldencandlesticks;

2 **I know thy works**, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because **thou hast left thy first love**.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Review

For the last few weeks we have focused on *LOVE SO AMAZING* in missions and to all the world via world evangelism, especially during our missions' conference. This morning, we will consider a different perspective – THE LOVE SO AMAZING AS...

The Love of Christ Exhibited Specifically to Each of the Churches in Revelation

The Book of Revelation is an unveiling or revealing of the Lord Jesus Christ. In chapters two and three, this book reveals truth about the Lord Jesus that should be a focus of every church – He know a church’s “works.” Regarding the seven churches in these two chapters, note the following:

Rev. 2:2 **I know thy works**, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ...

9 **I know thy works**, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. ...

13 **I know thy works**, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. ...

19 **I know thy works**, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Rev. 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; **I know thy works**, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. ...

8 **I know thy works**: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. ...

15 **I know thy works**, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

This morning, we will observe how the Lord Jesus Christ describes the church in Ephesus.

I. THE DECLARATION BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST “I know thy works...”

A. The Principle of Identity – the Believers’ Works, 2:2 “I know thy works...”

❖ The Lord Jesus Christ makes it clear that He is astutely aware of a church’s character:

Original Word: οἶδα

Transliteration: eidó

Definition: be aware, behold, consider, perceive; **Usage:** **I know**, remember, appreciate.

eídō (oida) – **properly, to see with physical eyes (cf. Ro 1:11), as it naturally bridges to the metaphorical sense: perceiving ("mentally seeing").** This is akin to the expressions: "I see what You mean"; "I see what you are saying."

eídō ("seeing that becomes knowing") then is a *gateway* to grasp spiritual truth (reality) from a physical plane. **(eídō) then is physical seeing (sight) which should be the constant bridge to mental and spiritual seeing (comprehension).**

[Strong's Greek: 1492. εἶδω \(eidó\) -- be aware, behold, consider, perceive \(biblehub.com\)](https://biblehub.com/greek/1492/)

- ❖ The Lord Jesus addressed the church as a singular entity – “thy.”
- ❖ The Lord connects the individual church with its “works.”

Original Word: ἔργον

Transliteration: ergon

Definition: Usage: work, task, employment; a deed, action; that which is wrought or made, a work.

érgon – a *work* or *worker* who accomplishes something. ***érgon* ("work") is a deed (action) that carries out (completes) an inner desire (intension, purpose).**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2041.htm>

B. The Principle of Unity – collective testimony with the majority on the same page: (thy, thy, thy, thou, thou, thee, thy, thou, thee, thy, thou, thou)

❖ The Lord Jesus reveals His assessment by what the church “does,” be it good, bad, or both.

II. THE DIAGNOSIS BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, 2:2-3

A. The Notable Faithfulness – The Descriptive Declaration

Rev. 2:2 **I know thy works**, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

❖ The church at Ephesus had many notable traits of faithfulness:

- "...thy labour, and
- thy patience, and
- how thou canst not bear them which are evil:
and
- thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and
- hast found them liars:
- And hast borne, and
- hast patience, and
- for my name's sake hast laboured, and
- hast not fainted."

❖ The Lord Jesus reveals His characterization of churches from both a positive and a negative perspective.

B. The Negating Factor – the Determined Decline –
“...thou has left...”

Original Word: ἀφίημι

Transliteration: aphiémi

Definition: to send away, leave alone, permit
(abandon, left)

Usage: (a) I send away, (b) I let go, release, permit to depart

<https://biblehub.com/greek/863.htm>

- ❖ The church in Ephesus had moved from obedient motivation to mechanical routine in its relationship with the Savior.
- ❖ The church had abandoned the proper motivation for faith in service – “love.”

Jn. 14:15 **If ye love me, keep my commandments.**

Jn. 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

C. The Noticeable Factor – the Diminished Dynamic – “...thy first love.”

- ❖ Nine positive traits are mentioned and offset by one powerfully negative trait → abandoning their first love.
- ❖ The Lord Jesus Christ, who is love, expects reciprocation of His love from His children.

Gal. 5:6b “...faith which worketh by love.”

III. THE DEMAND BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

“Remember...repent...do the first works...”

A. The Inventory – “Remember...”

❖ Consider a place of faithfulness in the past.

B. The Inversion – “...repent...”

❖ Commit to correcting the decline of passion in the relationship with Christ.

C. The Ignition – “...do the first works...”

❖ Commence to work out your salvation in fulfilling your purpose for existence.

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:**

Phil. 2:13 For **it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.**

- ❖ Mankind's heart is the battlefield for the affection of the soul.
- ❖ A believer's heart must always be aware of the priority of love's focus – "first love."

Original Word: πρῶτος

Transliteration: prótos

Definition: first, chief; **Usage:** first, before, principal, most important.

prōtos – **first (foremost) is the superlative form of *pró* ("before") meaning "what comes first" (is "number one").**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4413.htm>

❖ The first and foremost “work” is to love the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:5 And **thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy might**.

Mark 12:30 And **thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy mind**, and with **all thy strength**: this *is* the **first** (πρῶτος) commandment.

Original Word: ἔργον

Transliteration: ergon

Definition: Usage: work, task, employment; a deed, action; that which is wrought or made, a work.

érgon – a *work* or *worker* who accomplishes something. ***érgon* ("work") is a deed (action) that carries out (completes) an inner desire (intension, purpose).**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2041.htm>

- ❖ Who and/or what is your first love?
- ❖ Prioritize your affection to fall deeper in love with Christ.

Jn. 13:17 If ye know these things, **happy are ye if ye do them.**

Conclusion

- ❖ If the Lord wrote about our church today, what would He write?
- ❖ The church collectively exhibits the dominating factors of unity, be it good or bad, or both.

❖ The chain is only as strong as the weakest link.



<https://www.markarnold.com/2017/04/brand-strong-weakest-link/>

Mark 12:30 And **thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy mind**, and with **all thy strength**: this *is* **the first commandment**. ...

33 And **to love him with all the heart**, and with **all the understanding**, and with **all the soul**, and with **all the strength**, and **to love *his* neighbour as himself**, is **more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices**.