



DEAR CHURCH: COME BACK

"¹Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands: ²I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. ³You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. ⁴But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first! ⁵Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches. ⁶But this is in your favor: You hate the evil deeds of the Nicolaitans, just as I do. ⁷Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God."
Revelation 2:1-7 nlt

Introduction:

"¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18

"¹Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ²And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

"³⁷Jesus replied, You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40 nlt

"⁷Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love." 1 John 4:7-8 nlt

1. When God is no longer our _____.

*"²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:21*

"³⁸Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me. ⁴¹And Jesus answered and said to her, Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴²But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42

"³³Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." Matthew 6:33 nlt

2. When there are _____.

"⁴Unfaithful creatures! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." James 4:4 rsv

"¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." 1 Juan 2:15-17 niv

3. When the _____ of the trials takes place.

"⁶So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world." 1 Peter 1:6-7 nlt

"⁷Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7 nlt

Conclusion:

"⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place unless you repent." Revelation 2:5