

Today's Theme

“Evaluation Begins Ephesus”

Series Title

“The Future - From Jesus”

Part 4 September 18, 2022

1. Jesus is the one *doing* the *evaluating*.

Rev 2:1 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: “These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2. Jesus *commends* them.

(1) They did *good* things & *worked* hard.

Rev 2:2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance.

(2) They understood *truth* & *protected* it.

Rev 2:2 I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

(3) They didn't walk *away* when *persecuted*.

Rev 2:3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

(4) You *refused* to embrace *immorality*.

Rev 2:6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

3. Jesus also *fills* them in on their *failures*.

(1) You've *given* up the *love* you had for Me.

Rev 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

(2) *Forgetfulness* can bring on spiritual *decline*.

How To Get Back On Our Feet Again

1. *Remember* what it was like before.

Rev 2:5 Consider how far you have fallen!

2. *Repent* and be willing to change

Rev 2:5 . . . Repent

3, *Repeat* what you did at first.

Rev 2:5 . . . and do the things you did at first.

(3) Being *without* love shuts our *light* down.

Rev 2:5 If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

How To Get Back To Love

1. *Tell* Jesus you *love* Him.

2. Take *what* He says seriously.

3. Begin *trusting* Him more *completely*.

4. *Look* for Him to *show* up in your life.

5. *Talk* about Him *regularly*.

4. Jesus rewards *listening* & *following*.

(1) Stay *honest* & *receptive* to what Jesus says.

Rev 2:7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

(2) *Safety* is a *reality* for Jesus followers.

Rev 2:7 To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.