

LACKING LOVE  
(Revelation 2:1-7)

- I. The ADDRESS (Rev. 2:1)
  - A. Specifically, to the *angelos* (“MESSENGER” or *angel*) of the CONGREGATION at Ephesus
  - B. Generally, to the WHOLE CHURCH
    - 1. From the Sovereign who HOLDS the messengers
    - 2. From the Sovereign who WALKS as JUDGE among the churches
    - 3. Based on absolute KNOWLEDGE
- II. The First COMMENDATIONS (Rev. 2:2-3)
  - A. Commended for their PERFORMANCE
    - 1. They were BUSY
    - 2. They were FAITHFUL (steadfast)
  - B. Commended for their PURITY
    - 1. They were MORALLY upright
    - 2. They were DOCTRINALLY orthodox
      - a. Demonstrated DISCERNMENT
      - b. Demonstrated COURAGE
  - C. Commended for their PERSEVERENCE
    - 1. They patiently ENDURED
    - 2. They did not FAINT
  - D. Commended for their PURPOSE: “for MY NAME’S sake”
- III. The CONDEMNATION (Rev. 2:4)
  - A. A GREAT failing
  - B. A GRADUAL falling
    - 1. A matter of the WILL: “LEFT” not “LOST”
    - 2. A matter of DEGREE: diminished FERVENCY

- a. Love of MONEY? (1 Tim. 6:10)
- b. Love of THE WORLD? (1 John 2:15*a*)
- c. Love of THINGS? (1 John 2:15*b*)
- d. Love of FAMILY? (Matt. 10:37; 1 Cor. 7:34)

IV. The COUNSEL (Rev. 2:5a)

- A. REMEMBER their FORMER position
  - 1. They had FALLEN
  - 2. They needed to RETURN to the point of DEPARTURE
- B. REPENT of failing fervency
- C. REPEAT the first works
  - 1. Not a call to renewed ACTIVITY
  - 2. But a command to refreshed ADORATION

V. The WARNING (Rev. 2:5b)

- A. Sudden JUDGMENT from the LORD
- B. Setting aside the assembly's USEFULNESS
  - 1. Still a "LAMPSTAND"
  - 2. But "out of its PLACE"

VI. The Second COMMENDATION (Rev. 2:6): HATING the works Christ also HATES

VII. The CALL and PROMISE (Rev. 2:7)

- A. The message from CHRIST is also from the SPIRIT
- B. Those who CAN must HEAR (cf. John 5:25; Rom. 10:17)
- C. Those who OVERCOME will be blessed (1 John 5:5)
  - 1. All who TRULY love CHRIST
  - 2. All will EAT of the TREE OF LIFE
  - 3. All will DWELL in God's PARADISE