

How to Recognize Spiritual Growth in You You Cling to Your First Love

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – September 15, 2019

Revelation 2:1-5

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 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. 5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place."

1. CHRIST IS PLEASED WITH OUR GOOD DEEDS

Rev 1:2-3

2 "I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary."

2. GOOD DEEDS NEVER TRUMP DEVOTION TO JESUS

Revelation 2:4

4 "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love."

3. ALWAYS REMEMBER WITH THANKFULNESS WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR YOU

Revelation 2:5

5 "Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first..."

Quote from John Wesley:

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case, unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out."

How do we Cling to our First Love?

Colossians 3:1-2

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.