

Top Priority!

The Art of Keeping First Things First

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

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (NIV)

1. How Priorities Can Get Mixed Up (vv.1-3)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

2. How to Know When They Are (v.4)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

3. How to Fix Them (vv.5-7)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

Discussion Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message and to prepare you for participation in one of our small group studies. If you need more information about when and where CARE groups are meeting this week see the display in the lobby or call Matt Banks, PCC's Small Group Coordinator (492-3608).

1. If you know what it is to have a thriving love for God take a couple of minutes to describe that reality. What has it been like for you to really love God as your ultimate priority?

If you are a Christian describe one of the best periods of your Christian life?

2. What things in your life have proved to be a distraction in your love for God?

What things have you relied upon as "good enough" when your love for God has waned?

3. We looked at four things that reveal that we have "lost our first love". Reexamine all four verses from First John taking an honest look at your own life. Do you see any of these symptoms present in your life? If so, to what extent?

- 1 John 5:3

- 1 John 3:17

- 1 John 4:20

- 1 John 2:15

4. Read Jeremiah 2:13. What "broken cisterns" have you sought in place of God? In other words, what people or things have rallied in your mind and life as a top priority?

5. What kind of “did at first” actions would reflect a rekindled love for God in your life? What kind of actions will you purpose to see in your life this week as a result of this rekindled love?