

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

Week 1

## Putting Things In Perspective

### First Love

Revelation 2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 "I know your works, your **toil** and your **patient endurance**, and how you cannot bear with those who are **evil**, but have **tested those** who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have **not grown weary**. 4 But I have this against you, that you have **abandoned the love you had at first**. 5 **Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first**. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

- Your works are noted
  - Toil
  - Patient \_\_\_\_\_
  - Hatred of Evil
  - Testing \_\_\_\_\_
  - Not Growing Weary
  
- Not Enough
  - Abandoned Your \_\_\_\_\_ Love
  - Remember From Where You Have Fallen
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Do What You Did at First

Matthew 22: 34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind**. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall **love your neighbor as yourself**. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

- Greatest Commandment
  - Love the Lord Your God
    - With All Your \_\_\_\_\_
    - With All Your \_\_\_\_\_
    - With All Your \_\_\_\_\_
  - Love Your Neighbor as \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 13:1 *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

4 *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

8 *Love never ends.*

13 *So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

## What Is Love

- Love is
  - Patient 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - Kind 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  
- Love is Not
  - Does Not Envy or Boast 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - Is Not Arrogant 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - Is Not Rude 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - Does Not Insist on its Own Way 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - Is not Irritable or Resentful 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  - Does Not Rejoice at Wrongdoing 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
  
- Rejoices With The Truth 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- Bears All Things 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- Believes All Things 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- Hopes All Things 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- Endures All Things 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- Love Never Ends 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1 John 3: 11 *For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that **we should love one another.** 12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, **because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.** 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

16 *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.*

17 *But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, **let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.***

- We Should Love God ... \_\_\_\_\_ ... We Should Love One Another
- We can "Know That We Have Passed From Death to Life, Because We Love the Brothers"
- Whoever Does Not Love \_\_\_\_\_ In Death
- Love Not in Word and Talk \_\_\_\_\_ in Deed and Truth

*Matthew 24: 4 And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.*

*9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then **many will fall away** and betray one another **and hate one another**. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, **the love of many will grow cold**. 13 **But the one who endures to the end will be saved**. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Will Fall Away
- and Hate One Another
- the Love of \_\_\_\_\_ Will Grow Cold
- But The \_\_\_\_\_ Who Endures to the End Will Be Save
- It's not enough to just "finish" we need to \_\_\_\_\_ well!

So what do we \_\_\_\_\_ to do to finish well?

Do we just need to try \_\_\_\_\_?

Is there a \_\_\_\_\_ somewhere that I need to work through?

*Ecclesiastes 12: 11 The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. 12 My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.*

*13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments**, for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.*

- It all comes back to \_\_\_\_\_ on God
- Love the Lord your God with all your ...
- All of "the works you did at first" must always have the focus of "\_\_\_\_\_ Him" not just works for works sake.
- But remember "that faith apart from works is \_\_\_\_\_." (James 2:20)
- So "Brothers, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37)

We must go back to the beginning, *“know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”*  
(John 17:3)

2 Peter 1: 2 May **grace and peace** be multiplied to you in the **knowledge of God** and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His **divine power** has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of him** who called us to his own glory and excellence,4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the **divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

- grace and peace be \_\_\_\_\_ to you
  - in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and of Jesus our Lord
  
  - His divine power has granted us \_\_\_\_\_ things. \_\_\_\_\_ things?  
Just those that pertain to life and godliness!
  
  - How are they \_\_\_\_\_? Through the knowledge of Him!
  
  - NOW, where do we \_\_\_\_\_ the knowledge?
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