

The Need for Revival:
The Love of God
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The need for revival occurs when a church or an individual drifts away from the things which pertain to the salvation in Jesus Christ. (Heb. 2:1-3) Everything which Jesus taught concerning Himself, the Father, the Kingdom of Heaven, and God's righteousness, would come to be summarized simply as the gospel or the faith. The need to preserve the purity of Christ's message and His teachings is what led to our New Testament. When a church wanders away from these truths, spiritual death is soon to follow.

Such was the case with the church at Sardis. Jesus had found their works unfinished. They had stopped doing the things which they had been taught. He commanded them to remember, return and keep the things which they had heard in the beginning.

Back to the Start

Our journey to Christ began on the path marked by the fear of the Lord. No one comes to receive Jesus Christ out of their love for God. It was God's love for man which brought to us grace and truth. The truth revealed His judgement against sin which brought us under the terror and dread of God's wrath, and that same truth revealed to us the grace of God in Jesus Christ for our salvation. Like the most beloved hymn states, "Tis grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved."

God's Love for Us

1 John 4:9–11 (NASB) ⁹By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Every mortal will die because of sin's curse on the body; however, without Jesus, the sinner will suffer the second death. The bible describes the sinner as being dead in his transgressions.

Death is why God sent His Son, and why His Son was willing to come. God loves us and desires for us to live. Jesus came to become the "propitiation" for our sins, meaning, that He satisfied the law in its demand for justice – the death of the sinner. Because of His death, the guilty sinner can be released from the condemnation of death.

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Reminders

Ephesians 2:4–5 (NASB) ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love (with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions), made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

Romans 5:10 (NASB) For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

We were God's enemies but through the death of His son, Jesus Christ, we have been reconciled with God. We have a relationship with God that is founded upon love.

"God's love for us has become God's love in us."

Romans 5:5 (NASB) [hope does not disappoint] because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Our love for God: Now, in Christ, we have the capacity to love God.

We love because He first loved us. (John, 1Jn 4:19)

Just how important is love? The answer to this question lies in the response of Jesus when His wily interrogators asked Him which of all the commandments was the greatest.

Matthew 22:37-40 (NASB) “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

The denominator for every commandment is love. Obedience is not legalism or self-righteousness. Jesus said that we love Him by obeying Him. When we love the Lord, His yoke becomes easy, and His burden becomes light.

This can be illustrated by Jacob’s love for Rachael.

Obedience
LOVE

Genesis 29:20 (NASB) So, Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

Love Grows Cold

We must guard our hearts against replacing our love for God with a love for the world – the things of the world and/or worldly desires.

1 John 2:15 (NASB) Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

In the last days perilous times will come. Men will be lovers of self, money, and pleasures more than lovers of God. (2 Tim. 3:1-4)

There is a strong danger of letting our love for God wane and grow cold by letting our actions for the Lord become a mere formality like the church at Ephesus. They were pressing on in doing all the right things, but they departed from the love that they had in the beginning. Jesus told them to repent and go back to doing the things which they done when they first began to learn and follow Christ.

Where is your heart? Have you drifted away from where you once were in Christ? What is your attitude toward the commands of Christ or the things pertaining to Him?

May we fear the Lord and love Him; denying our self, letting go of the world and laying hold of eternal life! Let us abide in His grace and live according to His truth!