

God's Word for Today

Read Revelation 2:1-5

Thoughts for Today

Our intimate relationship with Christ and our concern for those He loves are dependent on our love for Him. If we depart from our first love, we need to return. Our renewed love for Him could change our world.

In 1727 Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf resigned from all his governmental responsibilities to provide spiritual leadership for a group of about three hundred people who had moved to his estate to escape religious persecution. Internal conflict was about to destroy the community. Zinzendorf and the elders drew up a covenant of brotherly union, and on May 12, 1727, the entire community repented of their divisions, reconciled with their brethren, and entered a covenant to live together in harmony.

On August 13, 1727, they had a significant encounter with their Savior at a Lord's Supper observance. During the service, they were deeply touched by their awareness of the sacrificial love of their wounded Savior. They determined that the best way they could express their love for Christ was to win for Him the souls for whom He died. Their battle cry was "to win for the Lamb that was slain the reward of His suffering."

Following that encounter with Christ, the Moravian Brethren were possessed by a zeal for missions. They began a 24-hour prayer watch for the causes of the Kingdom, which continued for more than 100 years. During the following 25 years, they sent out more than one hundred missionaries around the world. Moravian missionaries were instrumental in leading John Wesley to genuine faith in Christ, and God used him as a key instrument in the First Great Awakening in America and the Evangelical Awakening in England.

It's Time to Pray

- 1. Thank God for His love shown through Christ's sacrifice. Ask Him to reveal the quality of your love for Him and how to increase your love.
- 2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?
- 3. Pray today by name for a person who has yet to believe in Christ as Savior. List the name on page 25 and see page 24 for ways to pray.

^{2.} Adapted from Come to the Lord's Table, Claude V. King, Nashville: LifeWay Press, 2006, pp. 10-15. Reprinted and used by permission. Available from www.lifeway.com