

"Pardon For The Erring Child Of God."
Acts 8:22-----Rev. 2:4-5

Acts 8:22;

Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Revelation 2:4-5;

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. (5); Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do thy first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

1-The Saviours estimate of the church at Ephesus:

1-There had been much good, which, by no means had died out.

2-They had labored, even unto toiling. V-2

3-They had endured:

1-Work had to be done under trying circumstances, in the midst of a great city, the inhabitants of which had been carried away by the worship of the great goddess Diana.

4-There was still an abhorrence of evil.

5-There was yet a keen and faithful detection of error in doctrine. Verse 2.

1-They had applied to some false apostle a test so severe and so successful, that they were exposed and put to shame

2-The Ephesian Church highly commended:

1-Commended for "toil" in service and "patience" in tribulation;

2-Unwearied endurance in suffering; repudiation of "evil Men," and fidelity in trying them, "which call themselves apostles, and they are not." Even hating evilé works which the Lord says, "I also hate."

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3-But still there is a grave charge against the Church. A charge not modified by the "somewhat" which the Authorized Version thrust into the translation.

1-The original reading: The charge:

"I have it against thee---Thou hast left thy first love."

2-NOTE:

1-It is quite possible for all the machinery of a Church to be in full working order, while at the same time the spirit of love and zeal which first set it going is on the decline.

3-This condition is a great evil; for-

1-It is no part of the structure of the spiritual constitution that any decline should befall it.

2-Outside work and energy will not continue long where love is on the decline.

3-It is a grief and dishonor to Christ to let our love flicker as it does.

4-No engine will continue to run long after the fire has gone out.

4-The Saviour's warning--It is twofold.

1-The declining church will sooner or later receive from Christ some stern reminder of its sin.

1-"I will come unto thee quickly."

2-Peter said; 1-Peter 4:17;

"For the time is come when judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of those that obey not the gospel of God?"

2-If the warning be unheeded, the Church will in time disappear.....

1-"I will remove thy candlestick out of its place."

2-The Ephesian church has long since ceased to exist and Ephesus itself is a heap of ruins.

1-Simon of Samaria:

1-A common Jewish name.

2-Likely a contraction from Simeon. There are ten men mentioned in the N. Testament by this name, however, this one is known as "Simon the sorcerer."

2-Great meeting in Samaria-Phillip was the evangelist.

1-Peter and John came down from Jerusalem.

2-Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

3-Simon would buy this power: Peter said,

1-Thy silver perish with thee, because thou

2-hast thought to obtain the gift of God with money.

2-Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter.

3-Because your heart is not right before God.

4-I see that thou art in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.

4-What Simon was to do:

Repent, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart be forgiven thee.

5-Did Simon believe? Had he previously been saved from sin? Some say no. Acts 8:13

1-Simon heard Philip and saw what Philip did

2-Simon believed and was baptized.

3-Simon continued with Philip.

4-Simon believed the same thing that the others believed, and he was baptized as were the others.

3-To a church or individual the means of recovery are:

1-Recollection: Contrast present with past.

2-Repentance: A new life-A new service.

3-Renewal: "Do thy first works." A true repentance will declare itself in works answerable to the amendment.

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