**The Most Essential Priority!**

**Revelation 2:1-7**

**The City of Ephesus.**

**The Church in Ephesus.**

**I. A Characteristic of Christ!** Revelation 2:1

 A. Christ is presented as the one who has sovereign \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over the leaders of the church.

**II. A Commendation from Christ!** *Revelation 2:2-3*

 A. They were a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ church. V/2a

 B. They were a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ church. V/2b

 C. They were a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ church. V/2c

 ***Revelation 2:6***

 D. They were a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ church. V/2d

**III. A Condemnation from Christ!**  *Revelation 2:4*

 A. ***‘Abandon’*** refers to a deliberate action and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that one makes.

 ***Matthew 22:37-38***

B. They had abandoned the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and fervency that once characterized their service for Christ.

**IV. A Challenge by Christ!** *Revelation 2:5*

 A. Jesus challenges them to do 3 things:

 ***1. They needed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.***

 ***2. They needed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.***

 ***3. Then needed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the first works.***

 B. To ***‘remove your lampstand’*** was to remove their witness and testimony for Christ and cause their ministry to become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**V. A Compensation from Christ!** *Revelation 2:7*

 A. The ***‘one who conquers’*** refers not to a special \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of believers but refers to all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ believers. ***1 John 5:4-5***

**How do you know if you’ve abandoned the love you had for Jesus?**

If enjoying God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is more important than enjoying the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who gave those gifts, you are in danger of abandoning your love for Christ.

If doing things \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus has become more important than spending time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, you are in danger of abandoning your love for Christ.

**How do we regain that first love for Jesus?**

An example from Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38-42

We are always in danger of crowding out the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!