

Revelations in Revelation – 4

Pastor Jesse O’Dorisio

Bible Text: Revelation 2:12-16 03/16/22

Jesus, lead us and guide us into all truth, and take that love and shed it abroad abundantly in our hearts, and we thank God that the church as the word tells us, is His Body. It’s His body which is such a beautiful thing to think of the intimacy that Christ has with us. That all of the supplying comes from the head, every need praise God comes from His mind. Everything is met from the head of that body. And that body praise God will be raptured. That church will be together with Him. And yet as we study this, and as we see the church will not all be there at the same time. They will be gathered up completely, but each part of the church, or of that body is raptured at a different time as the word of God says; every man in his own order, and every man in his own rank. There is a ranking and order.

Now last week thanks be to God we read about that first rank, that first company. We studied about Smyrna and Philadelphia, and how sweet that that representative of believers that either had died, alive, and looking and loving His appearing, or ones that are looking at the time of that trumpet blast. And when that first trumpet sounds, and there’s going to be other trumpets, but the first one sounds. And I love that, when that bridegroom calls His bride to His arms, that’s going to be the very beginning; the very beginning moment of the tribulation. At that point, the Lord will have taken one part of the church; the rib portion part of the church; she’ll be present together with Him. At that point the Lord will have taken one part of the church; the rib portion part of the church. She’ll be present together with Him, but now we venture into the tribulation time. Somewhere not exactly known, but probably before a couple years, but somewhere in that area after the tribulation is gone there is another company, the second rank of saints that’ll be raptured up. You find that in the word of God, it’s very clear as we’re going through Revelation. The very first company you see in heaven there in Revelation Chapter Four. You go on over to Revelation Chapter Seven, and you see this next company called the innumerable multitude. But then it’s still not finished yet; there’s still one more company to go that needs to be translated, raptured to complete the church at this time, and that’ll be the hundred and forty-four thousand; that twelve thousand out of every tribe, and it’s so wonderful. At that time, you’re getting there to the twelfth chapter of revelation. You’re getting closer to the middle of the tribulation time.

And prior to the middle of the tribulation the church will all be gathered, praise God. they’ll be present with the Lord. At that time then, the great tribulation, or the last three and a half years of the tribulation will begin to be poured forth culminating in that horrific battle as it’s seen from the earth, but as that wonderful battle that’s something that’s already won that we’ll participate in bringing that precious judgment and rath with our bridegroom called Armageddon. We’ll then wrap up that seven-year tribulation times. So. as I mentioned last week we saw the full overcomers, that small little rib portion company; they were ready at the first trumpet. We saw the qualities praise God, and briefly of Smyrna and Philadelphia; we saw that there were two, and the reason that there were two is we saw that Smyrna were the saints that died loving

the appearing of the Lord, and Philadelphia I pray that by His grace here we are some of them, and I still don't believe it's a whole lot. You know, when you only have so many hundred seeing Him go up into heaven when you only have about ten that are looking for His birth, and you only have so many hundred that are gathered in an upper room let me tell you something, it isn't that many and the word of God tells us that; it's a small company.

And it's not to feel relief, it's to be thankful and that's the one that's going to be overflowing with this love is the one that's thankful, and we thank God for it. But we saw that they're gathered up to meet the bridegroom in the air. We'll get to this, but in Revelation Chapter Four, that company of the full overcomers is the only company of all of the ones that are gathered up into heaven that is seen ruling and reigning in the midst of the throne; in the midst of the throne with Jesus Christ. And the reason is, is because they're ruling and reigning now. We're thankful to God that she's not waiting to be a wife, she's a readied wife now. See, that's what faith does, and it was from the very beginning amen? When we believed Jesus for salvation we're not waiting to be saved, we believe that that blood saves us. Amen? Praise God. We believe that that transformation was made just at that very moment. We went from death to life everlasting, amen? Praise God, but it sure don't look like it. Everybody here? I've been here quite a while, you're all getting old; I am too, and some of us get so old and the Lord tarry we die. But praise be to God that was done as far as life everlasting. That life never left, and it's just like the word of God encourages and tells us, it doth not yet appear what we shall be. But that's the beautiful thing about faith, is faith believes and it's alive now and it doesn't waver, it believes the word of God because that's what faith is. Faith isn't in something that are rainbows and whatever, that's just whatever you want to believe. There's one faith, one faith; the bible tells us there's one faith, and that is faith in the word of God.

Now I understand there's many different beliefs, but there is but one faith and I thank the Lord it faith, and faith is in the word of God, and it comes by hearing the word of God. And so, that's the way with faith all the way along, is it believes, amen? And sure pastor, that's exactly right, but it believes now; it's not waiting to believe. It's not something that well, I need to see it first. We saw that with Thomas, and Jesus told him, greater is he that has not seen Me and believes. So, see, there's a greater reward in faith that is tested, faith that is challenged, and then you think of the most holy faith that we live in right now to have, and that's the faith to be in the bridal company. I mean, most of the world looks at you and just say the faith that you're a son of God right now that you're born of God, you know, you're crazy. But then you step into that; well, that's just the beginning. You haven't even seen anything yet about my faith. And if you listen up, you'll just say wow, that place should just be fenced off. But see, we don't worry about that because the Lord has hidden this place under His wing, and I thank God that it is a vessel shut up for the Masters use. And so, I would as the word of God you love when people believe this precious word, and its free; it's free, free, free, free, free. You can never buy it, you could never earn it, and it's absolutely free, and it's the most joyous, and it's really the only joy you'll ever receive.

The further you go on with the Lord, yes, you'll have sufferings, but you'll have a joy that you cannot compare, praise God. So, we see that this is what's going on in those precious two little churches that represent the bridal body. They're just quickened, they were ready, and readied as a readied wife. They believe the word of God in its fullest extent, praise God. But I do believe that Jesus Christ, the reason that He's called me and chose me, and justified me was to glorify me with Him, and glorify me together with Him to take that precious encouragement that it's a crown that He has given me. It's a crown that I was born with; amen, we'll talk about that in just a minute. A crown, every child of God is born with a crown. I'm going to tell you that. Are you not a lord of all? Are you not born to reign? Now I'm not saying that you were already in a sense having this crown meaning this gospel of Paul's crown. I want you to understand that, but the intent was there that all men be saved and come to the full knowledge of the truth. You weren't born to serve; you're not born of God to serve; you're born of God to fully reign. So, in that capacity I guess it would be better said to have that crown, but truly the love to reign is there, so it is all there. So, don't ever think again that it's something that God didn't already give you that you could have because when Jesus Christ saved you, He said you have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ, amen. Amen, I'm not working for any of them. I've got them. By the grace of God, I just need the Holy Ghost to show them to me. Alright?

So, tonight we're going to move on to the second company; the second rank. Just as we saw that there were two churches, Smyrna and Philadelphia that represent dispensationally as well too that are the two churches that are in the bridal company, or the first rank. We're going to see tonight dispensationally that there's two churches that represent and are in the second rank, and they are raptured not at the beginning of the tribulation. We've talked about that already tonight that this second rank is not raptured at the time of the first trump; they go into the tribulation and that's the truth. The word of God says that they come out of tribulation: you'll read that in Revelation Chapter Seven. It says when John asked who are these; who's this innumerable company? Not in the midst of the throne, who is this innumerable company that's standing before the throne? Who's this company that has palms in their hands, and not crowns of their head? Who is this? And then it says to John these are they that came out of tribulation; yes, they came out of the tribulation, and they're not entering in as the bride for a bridegroom in such joy and rejoicing. It said that they have to have a tear to swipe from their eye. Thankfully to God, that's the last tear that'll ever be wiped, but I sure don't want to hit heaven with a tear needing to be wiped from my eye. With what we know, and what we have it should be the greatest praise and joy of everything that's ever been, praise God as we anticipate this all by His grace.

So, once again these ones are not ruling in the throne, but they're in Revelation Chapter Seven probably about eighteen months; a year and a half, two years somewhere in there later, and they are seen raptured into heaven as servants which was the limit of their belief. See. The Lord will meet you with your faith, and He will. What you want from this precious truth as thou hast believed, so be it done unto you. So, if you don't want to believe in salvation, so will it be done unto you. There is a sadly, but it's the truth; hell awaits, and there will be a lake of fire. If you receive salvation, praise be to God, that's just the beginning. There are things that God has offered that are waiting for all of His children, but you need to take the grace to receive the faith

to grow into it. So, if we limit the believing in this age as Christians, a tear is going to have to be wiped from the eye, and let's start tonight in Revelation Chapter Two which I really believe is like the pivot point of this. By the grace of God will I receive the encouragement of the Lord to be in the bride, or will I turn from Him and basically be in the second rank and here it is in chapter two, verse one.

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; these things saith He that holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks. He says I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou cannot bear them which are evil. All wonderful things. Thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: and hast borne, and has patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. I mean in this you think about what we would really define as a Christian, especially religiously in a lot of ways; I mean these people are it. Amen. I would love to have as well this testimony in my life. But yet it says there nevertheless in verse four I have against thee. Not just that some what's been added. I have against thee because thou hast left thy first love. Alright? And that word "left," it means divorced; it means completely separated from. So, you can see there was this encouragement. That's why I just asked us take in the works, the labour, the patience, the trying of apostles found in liars has patience again, and for My namesake has labored; labored in the name of Jesus, hasn't fainted, turned away in the name of Jesus, but yet it says but you left; you divorced the first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, repent. Do the first works.

Well, there were all these works that are listed all over there, so what was the very first work? And I appreciate it again being reminded of the beauty of the work of the Lord that he's speaking of. Faith worketh by love. The very first work is love. Remember from where thou art fallen; it's love. And repent, do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, will remove that candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, and this is something to know here that thou hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. The Nicolaitans, we'll talk a little about a little bit later tonight. One thing that they did, they had hierarchy in the church; it was the clergy in the church. They were putting people over different ones, kind of trying to kind of direct their lives in the things of God as opposed to pointing them to the Lord and letting them know He's your Shepperd; He is your Sheppard. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit sayeth to the churches. To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Now, let's think about this for a moment. This is the church that Paul wrote to about thirty years earlier that wonderful letter to the Ephesians; the Ephesians letter, alright? That's known to us as the high-water mark in a way of the whole word of God because that Ephesian letter is so mighty and apparent about the bridal message. It speaks of completely about joint heirship; joint heirs as husband and wife with Jesus Christ. It's the pinnacle that is revealed praise God in that precious letter to that church the Ephesians in Emphasis. And that's what's so heartbreaking if you really think about this, they had it. They had the fulness of it. Paul in Acts even said to those Ephesian elders, he said I commend you to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified. So, there was such wonderous

fellowship, there was such great encouragement there, but they left the bridal message; they divorced it, and God forbid that would be us. All the wonderous qualities of the Christian life that's listed here; the faith, the works, but notice this, the qualifier, the winner of it all is love, and that's what Paul says there in Second Timothy four. And there's so many instances with different saints that God is just so etched into my heart. And I always remember so many with Brother John Hill which is in heaven right now. I remember him walking in that office; actually, running and leaping in there. THERE'S JUST ONE QUALITY, there's one requirement to be in the bride; love His appearing, and he just had the biggest smile on his face. And I was just thanking the Lord how that precious encouragement because truly, this is what this is saying. The qualifier of it all is love. The encouragement to this church at Ephesus is you need to awaken, your love's not perfect. You need to awaken, there's lots of good qualities, but this love isn't full, this love isn't at its complete bridal state that I need it to be in to receive you as My bride.

Now brothers and sisters, as Christians in this age we need to really understand this. As Christians in this age, you're either going to be in the bride, or you're not. That's it, there's no tweener, it's just you will be in that first rapture of the bride, or you'll be in the innumerable multitude. And by the grace of God, I want to be there when the first trumpet sounds. I believe we all want to by the grace of God, this is what this precious meeting by His grace preaches. This isn't a thing of getting ready, in a sense, it's being ready and we need to be ready. We need to be ready for that trumpet blast. We need to be alive, and awake, and not slumbering. We need to be encouraged in this; we need to be those hardened good soldiers that endure hardness. That's what this is about and God help us to not turn from it.

So, this precious letter that Paul had written to the Ephesians, it was all about first love. Think about how powerful Paul said in there that we would know the love of Christ. If you ever quit hearing where you go to church about love, and about grace, you don't want to be there. How could you even preach for even five minutes without the words love, and grace, and mercy? Praise the Lord, and we thank the Lord, but it's knowing that love. That precious letter to Ephesus was about the joint heirs together with Him. You think about what that glory in the church for Him, and yet here we have a real turning point that these folks are in the balance, and God help us to make that choice, and just move right on in there by His grace to Philadelphia. We don't need to be hanging in Ephesus, we don't need to be wondering being tossed to and fro kind of there with something in reminding, but yet not truly in love.

I mentioned this a little bit earlier, and I think this is so true. Galatians 4:1 lets us know that. See, God's intent is not just for all men to be saved, but that all men would come to this full knowledge of the truth of what even we're speaking of tonight. Think of how God so loved the world. God so loved the world He didn't just want to save them; He wanted that every life that's ever been to marry His Son; that's what's so gorgeous. And then when you think about the love of God, and God's plan. We read in Gal 4:1 which makes it very clear that when we are born of God, we're born lord of all; of all, not some, not part, not a little, but of all. But it tells us there very clearly that if we don't grow up in the knowledge of our birth, or our birth right; if we don't grow up in the knowledge of it, even though we were born to reign over it all, the only enjoyment that we'll ever have is that of a servant in the kingdom because we refuse to grow up in the

knowledge of it; that's the truth. Sadly, that's the majority of Christianity today is they've chosen to remain as a servant in knowledge, or let's say it as it is; a child. A child when they have been born lord of all with the capacity, and then the power by the giving of the Holy Ghost that we could grow up fully in the measure, and the stature, and the fullness of Jesus Christ Himself. That we could come into there with possessing praise God this ability of faith to grow up into it says, a perfect man. Complete, complete, complete in the knowledge, complete in love, complete in joy and peace in believing God.

And yet here we are at this point, and even though we have this precious God, who in His faithfulness always that's just exceedingly, abundantly above all we ask or think, every child of God is born with that capacity. So, this gets right to the point, and it really does. It's love that separates it all out. Knowing His bridal love, loving it, and winning it. That's what it's about. Praise God, I thank God as the Spirit reveals it, it's very exact, it's very precise, and it's very easy to understand. It's a low cookie on a shelf. I like that, not just a cookie, but a low one; you can really get to that one.

Now, to each church that we read of, of these remember, there's seven churches here. To each church the letter of each one ends with these words in a sense "overcome." To him that overcometh I will make. always about overcoming. In each church that overcoming is to receive the amount of truth in each church, and I want you to think about that even for Philadelphia. In that church of Philadelphia, we read about, it said to them that overcome what would they be made? They would be made a pillar in the house of the Lord. So, there was always the responsibility of holding fast which thou hast; always the responsibility. In the church of Philadelphia, it is holding fast that which thou hast no man take thou crown, praise God. So, as you go on into each church each one is commended, and encouraged to lay hold of that wonderful truth that the Lord has met you with. And if not, if that truth isn't held dear what happens is there's a further falling away, and it continues to perpetuate. So, what we're seeing here tonight in this church of Ephesus is you have these ones at Philadelphia that have laid down the crown, so they've moved into a place where that crown isn't the first love in their life anymore, and they've laid that down. And now if they don't take that back up again and overcome as it says there again in this precious letter to the church of Ephesus; overcome, get back into that first love. That's what this is about; get quickened into it, praise the Lord, but if not, there'll be a further falling away.

So, these at Ephesus, if they do not return to first love, they're going to move to the rank of the second rank believers of the Church Age. Now this is sweet, and I'd like to point this out. Just as there were saints that are in the first rank, or that that we study about the first rank believers which are Smyrna and Philadelphia, alright? Just as there were ones that are in that first rank Smyrna, those saints have died in first love with the bridal truth. Philadelphia are those believers that are alive right now, and remain to the coming of the Lord. That is one company, but it shows that there's two different churches that represent that rank if you will. Well tonight as we go into this second rank we're going to find that there's two churches that are very similar in the same way that are in that same company that represent the second rank that have believers that die not loving the bridal message, and there's ones that will live that do not love

the bridal message, and there will both be raptured up not at the first trump, but they'll be raptured up as it's shown them in Revelation Chapter Seven that they're gathered up and they're put right there before the throne with palms in their hands. And those two churches are Pergamos, and the other one is Sardis.

So, let's go ahead and read about these two churches that represent this second company of believers, and we'll begin reading about Pergamos which again would be those believers that have died, and will die prior to; prior to Revelation Chapter Seven. So, this would be that of those believes that did not hold dear the crown message that had passed away before then. And to the angel in the church in Pergamos these things saith He which hath the sharp sword with two edges. I know thy works, and where thy dwellest even where Satan's seat is. Now that's not necessarily a bad thing because I'm telling you what, I think we dwell almost where Satan's seat is. That's called just a physical place because they're not being reprimanded for that. Listen, and thou hold fast My name, praise God. Even in those days thou hold fast My name, and hast not denied My faith. Praise the Lord even in those days where Antipas was My faithful martyr who was slain among you where Satan dwelleth.

Now, this Antipas, this is the only place that he is mentioned in the word of God. There is writings about him that he was a faithful minister. This is in the area of Rome at this time, this was in the reign of Nero if you understand anything about that. That was about as wicked a sort of a ruler that could ever be. Uh, just a horrible evil just embraced him on such a way that was just a stench, but this precious Antipas even though he was there he was faithful unto death, even unto death as a martyr. It says that this one was put in one of those brazen bowls; those basically ovens. They were brass, and that he was cooked alive, and would not deny the name of Jesus. So, this was a testimony that some have of his life. But it says that he was slain among you where Satan dwelled.

Now, right there we can get an encouragement that this is speaking of those that would die, praise the Lord believing God, but yet not necessarily having that full encouragement to ever lay hold of that bridal truth, but it says in verse fourteen; here we go. I have a few things against thee, because thou hast them. Them, that hold the doctrine of Balaam who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. And I love how the Lord does this. I have a few things against thee because there are them. You see that? He's speaking, and the word of God especially in these churches is always speaking to the believer; the believer to be awakened, quickened, to come out of it, to overcome, but the example is the unbelief that's around them. The example is, is this error in teaching all of these things that are being accepted. And so right here this error that we have is this doctrine of Balaam, and how again this doctrine of Balaam would encourage and teach as it did back in the Old Testament times for Israel to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans which thing I hate. Repent. Or else I will come unto thee quickly and will fight against them with the word of My mouth. Again, you notice how it says against them; against them. The Lord's always speaking to you in a sense of be quickened, awaken, take the truth, don't drift further into this, there's this warning. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit sayeth unto the churches; to him (hear it again) that

overcomes will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receives it. So, right there we have Pergamos; those are the saints that'll be part of that second rank company that die in their faith, but die not loving the bridal message as first love

Now let's move on over to chapter three, and let's continue to read about the other part of that second rank which is the church of Sardis, and in verse one. It says and to the angel in the church in Sardis write these things sayeth He that hath the seven spirits of God, and the seven stars. I know thy works and thou hast a name that thou livest and art dead. Um? Be watchful, strengthen the things which remain that are ready to die, for I have not found thy works, or thy love perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch; here we go, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come unto thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which not denied their garments. They shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment. I will not block out his name out of the book of life. It's not saying there was any possibility of blotting it out, it's just the encouragement of the Lord; I'm faithful. It's impossible to be separated from the love of God; I'm faithful. I'm not pleased in unbelief, I'm not pleased when people of My sons take error and don't turn fully to me, but I'm forever faithful and you'll never be separated from My love. So, this is that sweet assurance, but I will confess I won't write your name out of a book, I'm still going to confess the name before My Father, and before His angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit sayeth unto the churches.

So, we have a very sad picture here. From Ephesus which was this encouragement to awaken and be quickened, and return back to that first love, these are the ones that represent that they didn't; they continued to turn away from it. These are the ones that have laid down the crown, and have decided to take up a palm. And once again it all begins at Ephesus leaving the first love; another love has replaced it. And I think that's so true because really notice here, what you worship in life is what you love; what you worship is what you love. That's why the Father it says is seeking the true worshipper right? Who worships Him in spirit and in truth because worship is drawing nigh in fervent love to kiss. And we all know, and at times I know in our lives, I can testify before you the Lord had to really get ahold of me, and there were things that had pulled at my life, and there were things that I was starting to drift in, but thanks be to God for His faithfulness. You know, I could hear Him in saying that to me. Jesse, do you love Me? I mean do you agape love me, or is this a phileo thing? And Lord yeah, you know I love You, or is this something divine in Your life honey? And see, that's the thing is that we can go through half-hearted; we can, and most people will drift through. But I thank the Lord there's this power of His might called the Holy Ghost, and if we'll yield to that wonderous ministering of the Holy Ghost, I'll assure you, you'll fall in love; you'll fall deeply in love. You'll fall so in love that you'll go. Everything in your life will be an aftereffect of it. It doesn't mean that you just don't do anything in life. As a matter of fact, you do things even more heartedly as unto God. I've had people that tell me oh, I'm just going after the Lord, and I'm giving up this, and, and this. I said you're not going after the Lord; you're your own idol. Paul is preaching this precious truth, and

all you know what he was doing? He was still building tents. Probably skinning animals doing all those things, and making tents. Amen.

He's in first love. Let God take care of all the aftereffect, don't tell Him how you think first love needs to live because it lives a lot of different ways. It occupies in different things, but the occupation's still the same first love. And that's why I love everybody; praise God, you represent that. It's not just where we're from, and the way we look, and all those different things, but in what God has called us to. We're all different, and I thank the Lord, and it's magnificent, and we thank Him for the differences. That's what's so beautiful, we thank Him for the diversity that we have, amen. We thank Him for the diversity in thorns, amen. Infirmities, and thank the Lord for that comfort that God gives us in trusting Him for everything. So, this is what is so precious here is that we see this encouragement to us, and brothers and sisters, we need to face this. Idolatry, see this doctrine of Balaam that turned the children of Israel to things that were sacrificed in idols. What it was, was a little leaven getting in there to leaven the lump; that's what it was. It was that camel getting a head in the tent, and then they're finally in the tent, and you know, God help us to stand against this. And so, anything that leads one away from this first love bridal fellowship; that's your idol, that's your idol.

I've been pastoring about seventeen years now; getting real close. I don't know what day it is; I'll probably look at my calendar and see it here probably within a week or so. Alright? And even before that my heart had been broken many with different saints that I loved so much, and yet you could see just the distancing. It's not about, I pray we understand this, it's not about this building, it's not about anything about this place, but it is all about the message, and thank the Lord, this message of bridal truth, it started here, it's gone on here, it remains here, and by the grace of God may it be here till Jesus comes.

Alright? So, I thank the Lord for that, that doesn't change, and that power and the power of His might is still there, and by the grace of God may this anticipation, and just this desire only grow in us. And the thankfulness that causes us to stand and withstand, and having done all to stand; that's the beauty of this. But we see here that anything that turns us away from that bridal fellowship is your idol. The sad part is, is when somebody's in that they're so blinded they don't want to see, and they don't want to hear, and only the Lord can enlighten the eyes of understanding to see, but that doesn't mean you don't preach the word. But all of the evidence of this full overcomer, all of the evidence of this one that either would return to or hold fast that crown which thou hast that no man take it, alright? It's the love of this truth, it's a passion, there is no other gospel; you follow Paul as he followed Christ if you're going to win Jesus as bridegroom. That was the one that was marked there, that was the one that the Lord gave that testimony to; you follow me as I follow Christ. The secrets and intents of men are going to be judged according to MY GOSPEL? This is it, so I think of that life, and the things that he encourages, praise God that there was no other gospel, but the fellowship, that all that he desired and sought after even in that prison all he wanted he didn't say get me out of here, and you could say he knew he wasn't leaving, but he could have said that, but he couldn't because he was in love, and the love that he had, all he wanted to do was to fellowship with the bridal body. Timothy, come on, bring him, you bring James, you bring these ones that are encouraging to my

heart. I want to be ministered to of my bridal body fellowship. See, that's what it was all about and we would have in our heart, that we would gather the much, the more as we see that day approaching. And we wouldn't be entangled with the affairs of this life. When that begins to get to be my cause, I'm done. When I start to look at the outward appearance I'm done. I need to see and be looking exactly with the eyes of the Lord, and wear the eyes of the Lord in looking, and that's on the heart, and specifically He's looking on the heart for the true worshipper.

And I telling you that's why I love you; I know you're in love with Him. I know praise God this is why we come here and we battle, and this is fighting a good warfare, a good fight, and the warfare of the believer that we've been called to and it is. You're fighting against principalities, and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places. And those spiritual wickedness' in high places if we're not in tune it affects the brethren. That's that mystery of iniquity that's just out there anyway that it can just infect and divert you. And to get us away from first love. It's all of the enemy, it's all the enemy wants to do to you. He gets you away from hearing this message, he can put you to sleep, and you will go to sleep because the word of God says you will sleep. You're either alive and awake to this, or you're asleep to it. That's it, there's not a tweener; there isn't.

You're either going to be ready for a first trumpet. Or you're not. PRAISE GOD, praise God, and it's not to be nervous. It's not to be fearful, a bride is not fearful about her groom coming to marry her. Her heart is confident in the love of the bridegroom, amen? And that's all that the confidence needs to be. That's the first love, I'm confident in His first love. I'm so confident that that's all I want to hear, that's all I want to be in, that's all I want to rejoice in, that's all I want to have my fellowship in. That's why Paul said, there's no other gospel. If I come out here and preach anything else let me be accursed; get me out of here. This is it, and I thank the Lord we can be passionate about this. It's not a militant type of a thing, but it is a stand, and it's a fight but it's a passion, it's a love. I mean we're even seeing right now you can this war that's going on. From what we're hearing I don't know, but you see that these people, these Ukrainians they don't necessarily have the manpower, they don't have might, they don't have all these, but they got passion. They got passion, and there's a difference there, and any of these men that have been there in battle they understand. You better be passionate, and that's why I love how God's graced this nation, and He give and graced us with wonderful warriors. And there's always been that, and it gives me chills to even think about it, about the band of brothers; the brotherhood. There may not have been a passion for a cause, but there was a passion for one another.

Where do you think that came from? I believe it came from Philadelphia love. You understand that? If there's any benefit from anything we ever receive in this life it's going to come from this word. But this is how passionately we fight for one another, and we need to fight for one another. And I'll tell you what, sometimes it has to be firm, and it has to be curt; you can't live as they say, you don't want this silliness to come in to have silly ones led away. That's not what we're after here, we need the whole council of God and this is why. If one doesn't return to that first love fellowship, you'll move right into that second rank. And if you got something else that you're worshipping in this life that has drawn you away from the whole council of God,

you've got an idol that is not. . . Well, I was going to tell you, it ain't an idol anyway; you're not in first love and this is what this tells us.

So, notice here in verse fourteen going back to the doctrine of Balaam about those idols. I have to think about Solomon. Think of what a precious brother Solomon is. Solomon was, he was one that even so rejoiced, brought the people together, encouraged them, almost commanded them; lift your hands in praise, and praise the Lord. He knew how good it was to abandon yourself in praise to God. How he sought the Lord, the tenderness of his heart that the Lord said I'll grant you anything. He said oh, I just want Your wisdom cause these are Your people. These are Yours's God, and I want to be right, I want to be a leader that will possess everything of the heart of God to lead them in. My goodness, what a request, what a heart, what an incredible king. But then there was an idol, and it said that his wives and concubines, and their gods turned his heart. I pray that we take note and really have a sobering time to understand.

There are many that have run well, who hath bewitched you? Would you say that Solomon was bewitched? You know it, you know it because he gave opportunity. He gave opportunity, and I don't know if you noticed this, we read about how it was a doctrine of the Nicolaitans; the clergy. The word of God says He hates that, but you notice here that that was the second thing was at the church of Pergamos that it said another thing. So, there was another error by the way, and that's something we really need to understand as well too. You turn from truth, you'll turn more. It don't stop, it'll turn, turn, turn, turn. You ask some of the precious brethren that the Lord, I mean you talk about His jewels that had known this message in different things, and had love and such passion, but when they turned away from it how far they turned, those are, I'll tell you what, that's like the icing on the glory cake in this place because God's still faithful; He's still there, He's still there.

So, but it was Pergamos it said that in verse fifteen thou hast also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, so that thing which I hate the church of Pergamos had let in. Alright? You don't read anything about any Balaam or any Nicolaitans at all in Smyrna or Philadelphia. You don't hear one derogatory thing. You hear a lot about suffering, you hear a lot about sweet just thanking God, you kept the faith, and kept the name and all of these things, but you never hear about that. Did you notice in Ephesus it did say something about the Nicolaitans right there in verse six? It says thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans. It's a good thing to hate them, but they were around them; that doctrine was around them. Brothers and sisters, we need to stand. That kind of doctrine comes around you, get it away from you, get away from it. First of all, we're not strong. We can't stand against the enemy. Oftentimes we think about well, I'm be polite, or I'm going to be courteous. You stand in your home. You don't let that around your loved ones, those that are your children, your spouse by the grace of God you stand in love, but you let it be known that ain't going down. Well brother, can't we look at it another way. No, we're not going to look at it another way; this is it; this is what we preach here. By the grace of God this is what we stand in, and I thank God there is no other gospel. That by His grace is where He says, and we stay in that I'll tell you what, we're going to be made, not given, but be made something in heaven, and it says right there; made a pillar in the house of the Lord. My oh my how the Lord loves this.

But see, that was that error that continued to seep in there, and isn't that something too, that Nicolaitan doctrine. It's that clergy that God hates. He hates that hierarchy and stuff. And you step into any church, well this is this one, and this is this, and all of that. And isn't that kind of how they kind of hook you getting into churches anymore. Well, we'll make you a, we'll give you a position. You see, you see that subtle; that's a subtle, subtle thing. Once again, it's a hierarchy, it's an order as opposed to coming in here and say you've got it all, you just need to learn to reign, but how you do that isn't by getting busy, it's by sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening, and hearing Him and hearing what the Spirit sayeth to the churches. That's what this is about; that's what is so wonderful about this, and that's where we need to be and that's where we need to stand. And I'll tell you what we do not want to entertain any of these things. There's too much, and it's too costly to lose. So just closing this out just a little bit, think about this, the contrast. We'll get into a lot of different contrasts, but the first rank is a crown that they have and they become a pillar. The second rank is a palm they have and it says they receive a stone, and it's beautiful if you remember we read about Philadelphia and all, they get three new names. Three. The second rank only gets one. Thank God for what you get, but He's taught me I want it all. If the hearts in Caleb it's ours, I want to take it, and if you don't want it, I'll take yours too. His daughter was just like him, well I'll give you this. He says I want the upper and the lower springs, I want it all, and I know that there are ones that well, you're just being piggish; I've heard that about the crown. It's there for you too, but for my life by the grace of God I'm going to take it all. Amen? Amen. Let's stand and be dismissed praise God.