

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

A Letter to the Church @ Ephesus pt 2

Revelation 2:1-7

1967 - 2017



Revelation 2:1–7 (AV)

¹ Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; ² I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ³ And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. ⁴ 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 the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. ⁶ But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.





Revelation 2:1

- “To the angel [messenger] of the church in Ephesus write:

The Preacher



Revelation 2:2

•“ I know your
works,

He knows...

Christ knows Berean.

What would He say to us?

What would the letter contain?

We must look at each and every letter and analyze it as though it was potentially written to us.

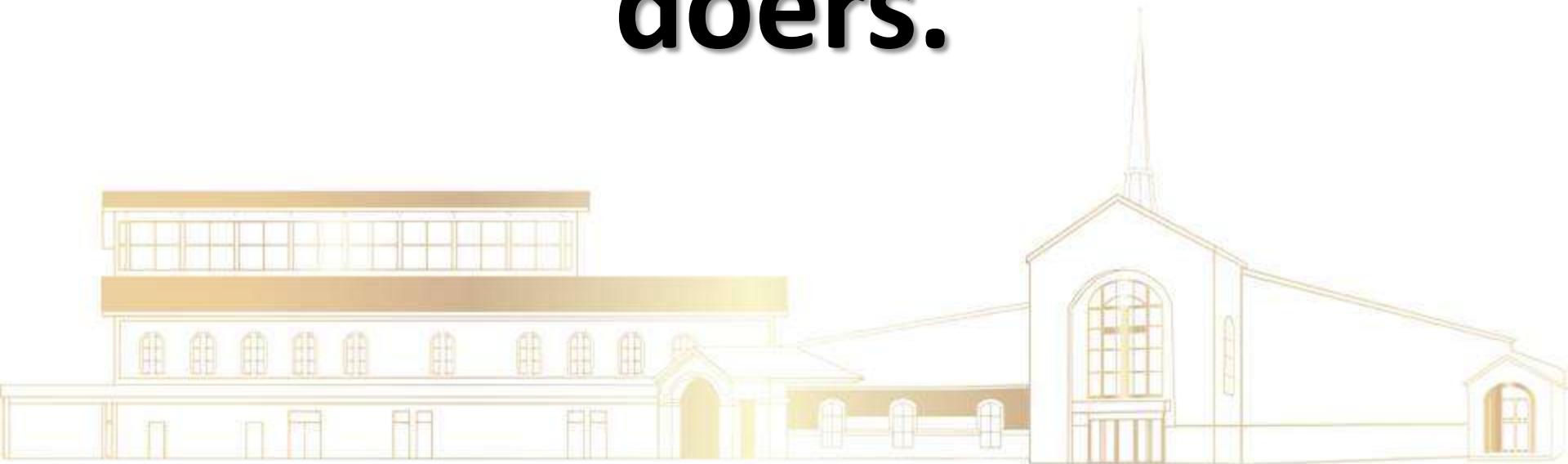
We MUST care about what Christ would think about Berean.



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#1

This is a church full of
doers.



This is:

- **Serving in Awana**
- **Visiting a shut-in at home or a nursing home**
- **Delivering a meal**
- **Babysitting for a family in need**
- **Building a handicap ramp**
- **Paying an electric bill**
- **Putting someone up in a hotel room**
- **Counseling with couple whose marriage is in crisis**
- **Teaching a Sunday school class**
- **Greeting new people in church**
- **Serving in the nursery**





Revelation 2:2

- your toil
- and your patient endurance,

Mentioned again in v. 3



Revelation 2:3

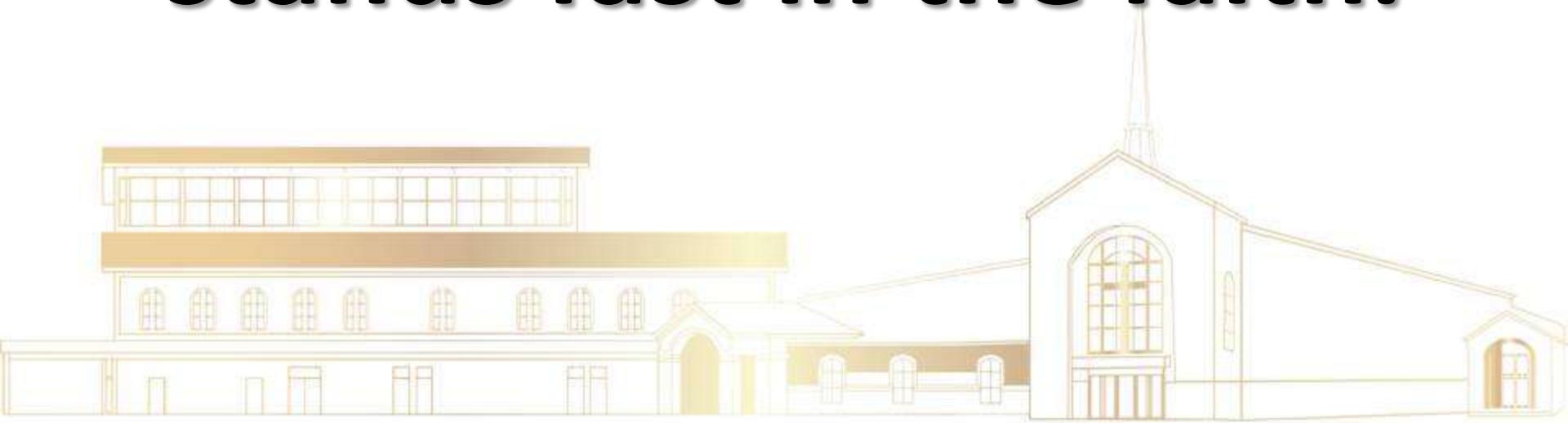
- I know you are enduring patiently

I am also aware that you have persisted steadfastly, endured much for the sake of my name, and have not grown weary.

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#2

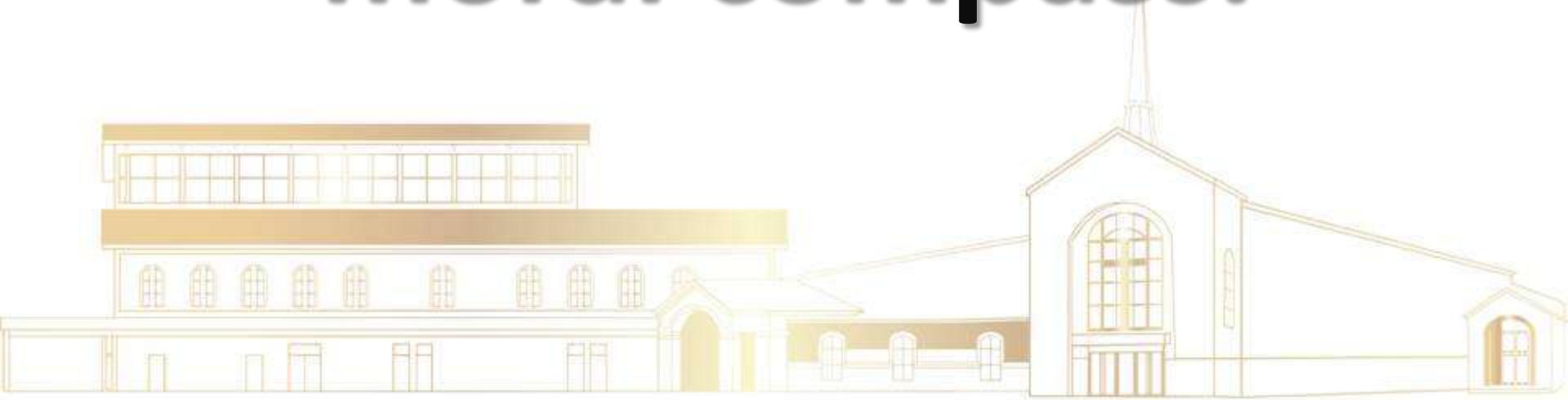
This is a church that
stands fast in the faith.



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#3

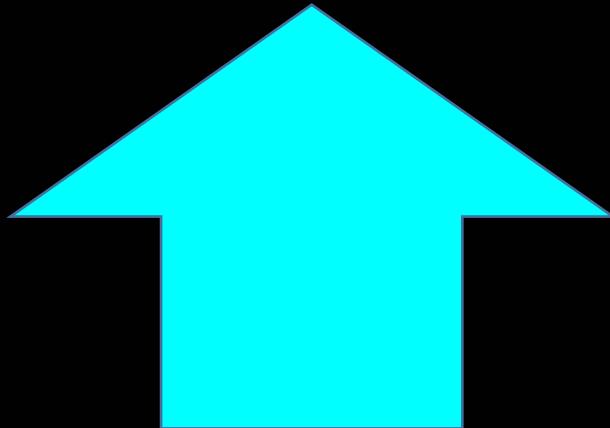
This church has a firm
moral compass.





Revelation 2:2

•and how you cannot bear with those who are evil,



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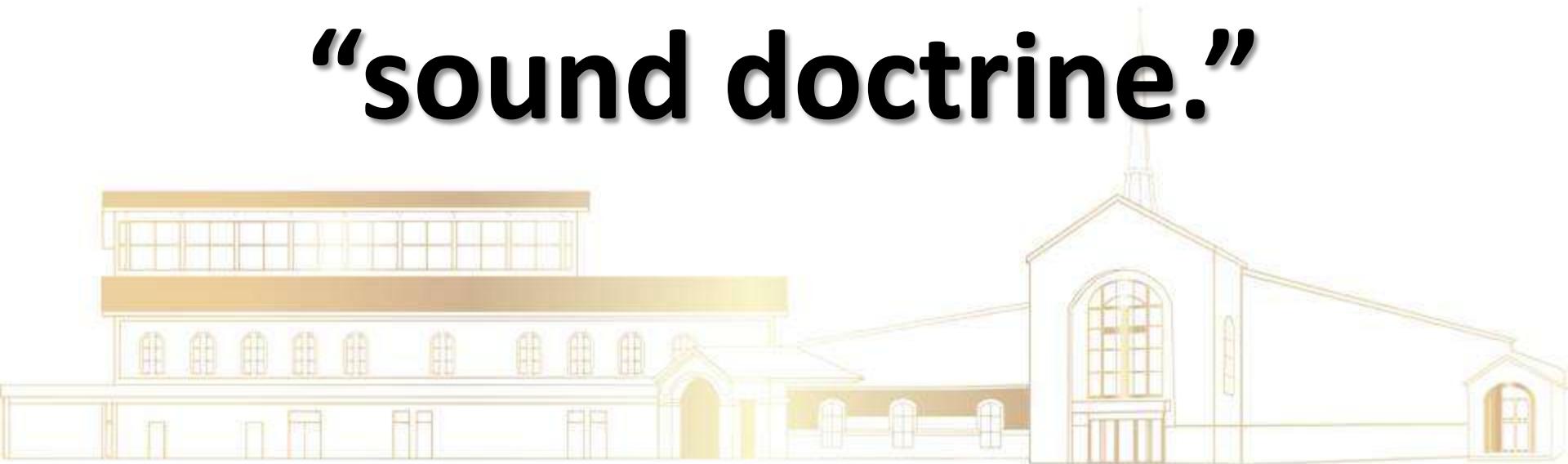
**Every reference to “evil”
reinforces a belief in moral
absolutes which must come
from a Sovereign or it is not
an absolute.**



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#4

**The church at Ephesus
stands for
“sound doctrine.”**





Revelation 2:2

- **but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not,**
- **and found them to be false.**

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**To test or examine what
someone teaches or
claims to be true
requires CRITERIA.**



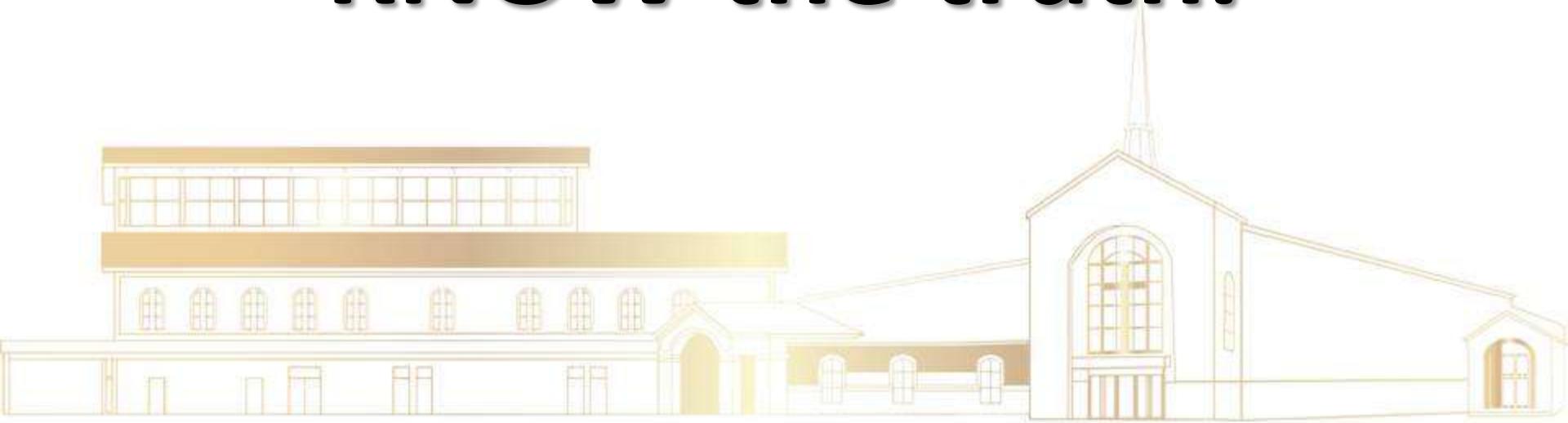
Criteria for Doctrinal Examination

- **Tri-Unity of the Godhead**
- **Inerrancy and Infallibility of the Word of God**
- **Person and Work of Jesus Christ**
- **Means by which Salvation is Obtained & Secured**
- **Purpose of the Ordinances Baptism & Lord's Supper**



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**In order to examine
false teachers we must
KNOW the truth.**



Doctrine Matters

- Jesus the one and only eternal Son of God, second person of the TRI-UNE God
- Supernatural conception; virgin birth
- Sinless life in perfect obedience to the will of His one and only Father
- Substitutionary death & Legitimate burial
- Bodily resurrection
- Post resurrection/pre-ascension ministry
- Ascension
- Mediatorial (Intercessional) ministry
- Second Coming



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I regularly show
You lists so that you
can examine what is
and isn't **RIGHT**.

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#5

**This church has not collapsed
or compromised under the
pressure of the world in its
convictions for Jesus.**





Revelation 2:3

•and bearing up for
my name's sake,
and you have not
grown weary.

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Now for the Rebuke

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Revelation 2:4

• **But** I have this
against you, that you have
abandoned the love you had
at first.

**What does he
mean by
abandoned the
love you had at
first?**



2:4–5 the love you had at first. One interpretation is that Ephesus had lost its early love for Christ. Another interpretation is that Ephesian believers had lost love for one another and needed to revive the compassionate works you did at first. Many interpreters think both are in view, since love for Christ and love for one another are related (cf. Mark 12:29–31; 1 John 4:20).



The ESV Study Bible



What we love matters to our Lord and Savior?

**If I love something or someone
more than Jesus, except the
Father, than that something or
someone is an idol.**



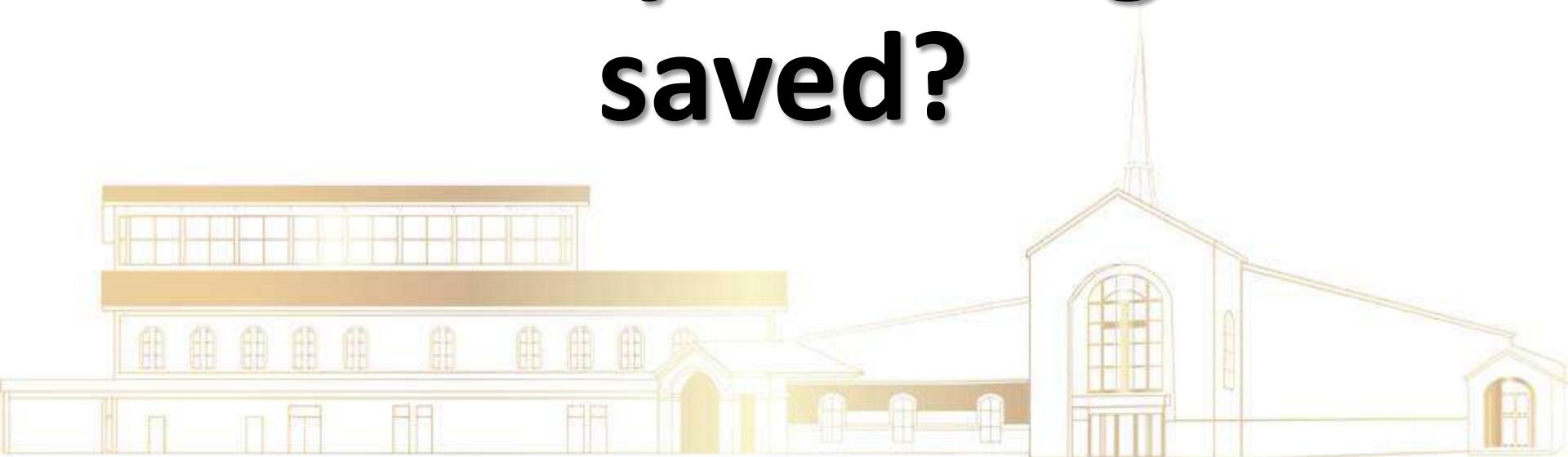


Revelation 2:5

- **Remember**
therefore from where you
have fallen;

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**Do you remember your
affections for Christ
when you first got
saved?**



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Turn to John 21

**Can you think of why
we are going here?**

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John 21:15-17

- When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

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**God is NOT
the Father of those
who do NOT love
Jesus.**



John 8:42 (ESV)

- Jesus said to them,

“If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

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Do you
love
Jesus?



**Baptists have decided the
most important question
you can ask anyone is if
they have accepted**

Jesus—

why don't we start asking:

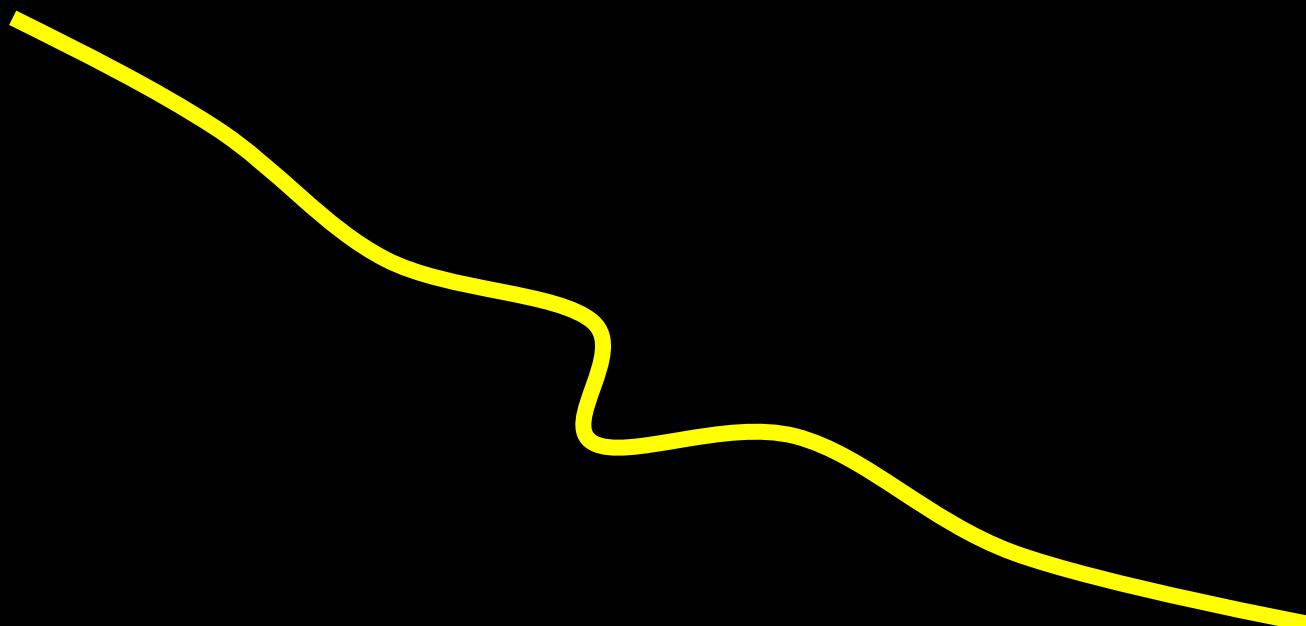
Do you love Jesus?





Revelation 2:5

•therefore from where
you have fallen;



From where you have fallen clearly implies a downward trajectory in your affections for Christ and others.

Love God
Love People





Revelation 2:5

• Remember
therefore from where you
have fallen;

We remember with our minds!

Lord's Supper Instructions:

**Do this in
remembrance
of me**



1 Corinthians 11:23–25

- 23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

1967 - 2017





Revelation 2:5

•repent, and do
the works you did at first.

•If not, I will come to you and
remove your lampstand from its
place, unless you repent.

Repentance includes a
recognition of wrong-
doing together
with a decision to
move in a different
direction.





Revelation 2:5

•and do the
works you did
at first.

What are the
works you
did at first?



Was it
singing,
praying,
reading?



Was it regular and
consistent
participation in
worship and Bible
study?



Was it serving?

There was a time when
you served in the local
NT Ekklesia.



**Why are you spending
less time assembling
with other believers
than you did when you
first got saved?**



Let's **stop** talking
about going to church
and let's start talking
doing church.



Doing Church Means:

1. You legitimately worship in song



Doing Church Means:

- 1. You legitimately worship in song**
- 2. You are praying when we are
praying**



Doing Church Means:

- 1. You legitimately worship in song**
- 2. You are praying when we are praying**

**3. Fellowship among
believers is NOT a token
exercise**



Doing Church Means:

- 1. You legitimately worship in song**
- 2. You are praying when we are praying**
- 3. Fellowship among believers is NOT a token exercise**

- 4. Sit and soak is NOT an option**



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- 1. You legitimately worship in song**
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- 5. You are here to be impacted**
- upon and to make an impact**



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- 1. You legitimately worship in song**
- 2. You are praying when we are praying**
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- 6. Active participation in the preaching of the Word of God**



Doing Church Means:

- 1. You legitimately worship in song**
- 2. You are praying when we are praying**
- 3. Fellowship among believers is NOT a token exercise**
- 4. Sit and soak is NOT an option**
- 5. You are here to be impacted upon and to make an impact**
- 6. Active participation in the preaching of the Word of God**

- 7. Your talents and spiritual gifts are being used in the body of Christ for God's Glory**





Revelation 2:5

[Jesus said:]

•do the
works.

Are you just
going through
the motions?





Revelation 2:5

• **If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.**

“Removing the lampstand” is the act of Christ that moves a local body of Christ into a club—an organized gathering place for like-minded religious socialites.

These religious socialites pacify their conscience through charitable acts of benevolence and routine religious rites and rituals.





Revelations 2:6

- Yet this you have:
 - you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Notice they do not hate the Nicolaitans [Muslims]—they hate the works, the deeds, the practice of the Nicolaitans.

I must continually guard my heart.

I must be able to distinguish between the person and the deeds of the person.



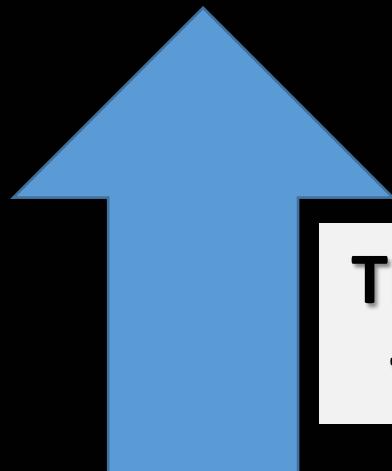
- > It is not you that I hate—it is your impertinence.
- > It is not you that I hate—it is your homosexuality.
- > It is not you that I hate—it is your acts of terror.
- > It is not you that I hate—it is your egotistic arrogance.
- > It is not you that I hate—it is your self-centeredness.
- > It is not you that I hate—it is your effeminacy.





Revelation 2:7

- **He who has an ear,**
- **let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**



**The plurality of local churches
that will read this message.**



Revelation 2:7

• **To the one who conquers
I will grant to eat of the tree of
life, which is in the paradise of
God.'**