

What Holds Your Heart?



David Wilkerson (1931-2011) January 31, 2020

As we read Paul's letters to the Ephesians, we see how he compliments them at length. He addresses them as "the faithful in Christ Jesus ... blessed ... with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:1-3).

Paul adds that they are a forgiven people, and he prays they would have "the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know ... what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe" (1:17-19).

In the book of Revelation, Jesus also compliments the Ephesian Christians, "I know your works, your labor, your patience" (Revelation 2:2). In other words, "I know all the good things going on in your lives. You are diligent in good works, and that is very commendable."

Jesus continues to compliment them, pointing out, "You cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars" (2:2). He is saying, in essence, "You hate sin with a passion, and you don't tolerate it in your life, your home or your church. You have not been tossed about by all the latest teachings of the flesh, and you're able to rightly judge false teachers and false prophets."

It is obvious that the Ephesians are not just a bunch of novices or lukewarm saints. Yet Jesus points out that something is deeply wrong when he says, "I see all your works — your hatred for sin, your love for truth, your righteous courage — and yet somehow in all your labors you have allowed your affection for me to wane" (see Revelation 2:4).

This should grip your soul! As you faithfully labor for him and practice righteous living, ask the Lord, "Jesus, have I lost my first affection for you?" A good measure of this might be found by a close look at what holds your heart right now. How do you spend your time? What robs you of quality time alone with him? What do you make a priority?

Go back to your first love today! Ask your Father for grace and strength to guard your affection for Christ, your Lord and Savior.

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