

MGFA (Make God First Again)

Revelations 2:1-5 To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. **2** “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. **3** I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. **4** But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. **5** Remember therefore from where you have fallen; 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.

- In the final installment of the canonical scripture, the ascended Christ personally crafts customized letters to each of the churches scattered across the region known as Asia Minor (present-day Turkey). He addresses the Ephesian church first, not only due to their prominence but also because of their central role in the region's culture. Paul, the founder of the church, personally disciplined its leaders. Timothy served as their Bishop, and the Apostle John resided there until his imprisonment on the island of Patmos. The Ephesian church epitomized the ideal church: prominent, wealthy, and influential. They even created their own economic engine that allowed the believers to distance themselves from the pagan commerce conducted through the temple of Artemis. On the surface, the Ephesian church appeared to be the perfect example of a church. However, the Great Head of the Church seized this opportunity to address the “great” church.
- **The good news** is that they were a church that toiled. They exhibited patient endurance and did not tolerate evil. They properly tested all of those who claimed to be apostles yet were found to be false. They had not grown weary in doing the work of the Lord.
- **The bad news is** they abandoned their first love.
 - They allowed their work for God to overshadow their worship of God.
 - They allowed their wealth to hinder their witness.

- They became more concerned with their public persona than their personal practice.
- They sought prominence and magnanimity rather than humility and unity.
- What then was the Sovereign's solution?
 1. **Remember** - (*mnēmoneue* GK.) /verb, present, active, imperative/ keep in mind, think of; mention.; retain in one's memory; all that the Lord has saved you from and brought you to.
 2. **Repent** - (*metanoēson* GK.) /verb, aorist, active, imperative/ change one's mind; feel remorse, be converted, turnaround.
 3. **Return to Your First Works** = fervent love and dedicated devotion to Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus the Christ).

Parenthetical Note: In verse five, Jesus warns believers who refuse to remember, repent, and return to their initial works. While they wouldn't lose their salvation, He would remove their lamp-stand, symbolizing their Authority, Dominion, and the influence they gained through their love and faithfulness in Christ.