

**FORSAKEN LOVE****Revelation 2:1-7****Introduction:**

- A. Nothing is hidden from God's all-seeing eye.**
- B. The Lord commends before He condemns.**
- C. The condemnation expressed in this letter is Divine and not some criticism offered by someone with a personal ax to grind.**
- D. He that hath ears to hear is called upon to hear. Since the letters are to churches, church members are called upon to hear. Lost people do not have spiritual ears and cannot hear these messages; saved people who have never submitted to true church membership and baptism have spiritual ears, but they do not have surrendered ears and they can not hear what the Spirit says to churches.**

**I. LEARN THE DANGER OF GETTING SO BUSY SERVING THE LORD THAT WE LOSE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH HIM.**

- A. Verse 2 The Lord knew their works, and their labour , and their patience.**
- B. Verse 4 This church had left her first love – her love for the Lord.**
- C. This does not mean that there was no love for the Lord; but it does mean that she had gotten so busy serving the Lord that there was no time left for moments of personal fellowship with the Lord.**
- D. Like a husband that is so busy earning a living for his wife that he neglects her need of close times of private fellowship with her.**

**II. LEARN THAT A CHURCH CAN BE SO CAREFUL PROTECTING HER MORAL AND DOCTRINAL STANDARDS THAT SHE FORGETS HER MOST IMPORTANT WORK.**

- A. Verse 2 reveals that this church was very careful to keep her membership clean morally.**
- B. This church was also careful to keep her teaching and preaching clear of doctrinal error.**
- C. But, she had left her first work .... Taking the gospel message to the lost.**

**III. LEARN THAT A CHURCH CAN GET SO INVOLVED IN PATIENTLY BEARING THE TRIALS OF STAYING ALIVE IN A CRUEL WORLD OF UNJUST CRITICISM THAT SHE LOSES SIGHT OF THE LORD'S PURPOSE FOR HER EXISTENCE.**

- A. Verse 3 This church had borne with patience all the evil that had been pressed upon her for the sake of Jesus' Name.**
- B. This church had labored and had not fainted.**
- C. But, she had forsaken her first love, the special love for Jesus who had saved them.**

**IV. LEARN THAT A CHURCH CAN HATE CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND YET PERMIT THEM TO CONTINUE.**

- A. Nicolaitanism was hated by this church.**
  - 1. This is bossism; some individual or individuals ruling the church.**
  - 2. The Lord had warned His church against this and had said that it would not be so among them. (Matt. 20:25-28)**
  - 3. Jesus declared His hatred for this and recognized that this**

**church also hated it.**

- B. It seems that nothing was done to correct this error for the letters to the third and fourth churches, the problem had continue to grow until the bishops and elders held complete control over the churches.**
- C. First love includes giving Jesus His rightful place as Head over each church.**

**V. LEARN THE LORD'S THREEFOLD REMEDY FOR CORRECTING CHURCH FAULTS. Verse 5**

- A. Remember from where you have fallen.**
- B. Repent for having done wrong.**
- C. Do your first works.**

**VI. LEARN THE AWFUL CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING TO FOLLOW THE REMEDY GIVEN BY THE LORD.**

- A. Verse 5 I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.**
- B. Revelation 1:20 reveals that the candlesticks are the churches. Therefore, the consequences of the Lord removing the candlestick from any church are fatal – the church ceases to be a church in the eyes of the Lord.**

**CONCLUSIONS:**

- A. Each of us should search our hearts for how we personally stand in the sight of the Lord – does He see my life as expressing first love for Him?**
- B. How do you think our church stands before the Lord regarding first love and first work?**