

Sunday, 12th October 2014

Lost Love

Graham Hooke

Calvary
Christian
fellowship



INTRO: The first time you fell in love...

RECAP: One of seven reasons for looking at Revelation.

THE WORD FOR REVELATION : Apocalypse Now!

THREE TYPES OF WRITING:

Apocalyptic, Epistolical and Prophetic... meaning (!):

BIBLE: Revelation 2: 1 – 7

1. THE GOOD

Hardworking, patient, intolerant of evil, suffered for Jesus, persevered.

2. THE BAD

The Hurt: Lost Love - “You have forsaken your first love”

The Healing:

- Remember
- Repent
- Restore

3. THE UGLY

Without repentance – end of church

4. ESCAPE TO VICTORY!

Victory – tree of life – is possible. Listen to the Spirit.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

In a family, small group or community

These notes are to help you as a family, community or small group unpack the Sunday teaching. It's a bit unrealistic for a small group to do everything - **so feel free to be selective!**

1. OPENER

Group Leaders – use your discretion on this one...

For the brave:- share stories of “lost love” and/or “love restored”.
(I recommend that you stick with those from the distant past in which healing came a long time ago.) What was it like? What did you learn?

2. TO THINK ABOUT

1. Talking about love is often difficult – we feel vulnerable.
A line in a song says of Jesus; “All for love’s sake became poor.”
Jesus accepted poverty, dependency, vulnerability, total shame even, for the sake of love – love for us.

In loving God and (its corollary) loving others – how vulnerable are we prepared to be today? In what specific ways might we be vulnerable?
Has this changed from past years?

2. Think about this church at Ephesus and their hard work, patience, suffering and perseverance – brilliant qualities. Consider what was actually missing from their relationship with Jesus now that they are told that they have forsaken their first love.

Check out some of these references which refer to them in former times:
Acts 19:1-12; Acts 20: 17-36; Ephesians 1:11 – 2:10

3. Can this lost and forsaken love be restored? If so how?

3. CONFESSION, WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Take time to ask this question of God: Are you saying to me, “You do not love me as you did at first.” If so, remember (think), repent (turn) and restore (do what you once did). Start now: in worship, prayer and action.
Be vulnerable for love’s sake!

I know **how hard you have worked** and **how patient** you have been.

I know that **you cannot tolerate evil** people and that **you have tested those who say they are apostles but are not**, and have found out that they are liars.

You are patient, **you have suffered for my sake**, and **you have not given up**.

But this is what I have against you: **you do not love me now as you did at first**.

Think how far you have fallen!
Turn from your sins and **do** what you did at first.

Revelation 2: 2-5