



# Church of Christ

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## Heart to Heart...

God is looking for sincere worshipers! He looks for people with a sincere desire and devotion for the truth. **“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.”** (John 4:23) Jesus explained whom God seeks. Many seek God but God seeks those who are moved from within their being toward Him (spirit) and the sphere of truth is where they walk and live. Those are the ones whom God seeks.

Paul instructed the Roman brethren that they should be moved by the mercies of God. (Rom. 12:1) In response to His mercies, they were taught, **“Not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.”** (Rom. 12:11) There needs to be some “spiritual eagerness” in our approach to God. God isn’t seeking for people who are lazy in their desires toward Him. Do we think God isn’t aware of what is going on in our lives? Is God aware of our diligence and fervor toward Him? To be *“fervent in spirit”* is an overall attitude of zeal and desire.

The church at Ephesus in Revelation 2 was condemned for their lack of diligence and fervor. **“But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent.”** (Rev. 2:4-5) To leave their first love was not they had left Jesus! Jesus praised them for the things they had endured for His name sake. (Rev. 2:2-3) They had slacked off in their fervor from within their spirit and had become lazy. He told them, *“do the deeds you did at first!”* They were thrilled with their relationship and mercy of God when they first entered Jesus. They showed their love for Him in their lives and deeds. Somewhere they had slacked off and Jesus wasn’t going to reward that. If they weren’t going to change their attitude and diligence of heart, He would remove their lampstand. They would lose the light!! What a scary thought.

How about us? How many of us reached out and had some zeal about our relationship, only to see today that we do well just to show up on Sunday mornings? It’s difficult for some to do that now. We were thirsty to grow in the grace of God, now finding ourselves with little interest –no reaching, striving, looking for ways to help people in their relationship to God. We give little encouragement but need others to reach out and encourage us because we have fallen so far down. We find ourselves confronted with God and it pricks our hearts, but not to repentance. We know we need to change, making some serious moves, but hold to our present course. Our desire to help in teaching, reaching out and other areas has dwindled to excuses. How lagging in diligence is that?

God is looking, seeking for sincere worshipers! He is looking for people that are motivated by His mercy and love, willing to extend themselves for His name sake. Those are the ones who will be there in the end. Will it be said of us, like the Ephesians, *“or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand?”* That’s something we must all decide. Think about it!!!

Brent