

DO WE LOVE HIM LIKE WE DID?

Text: Revelation 2:1-5

I have always enjoyed, for the most part, the humor of Jeff Foxworthy. His “ you might be a redneck jokes crack me up. For instance:

You might be a redneck if:

- ❖ Taking your wife on a cruise means circling the Dairy Queen
- ❖ You know yer a redneck when you take a load to the dump and bring back more than you took
- ❖ You have a rag for a gas cap.
- ❖ You think fast food is hitting a possum at 65 mph.
- ❖ You think a quarter horse is a ride out in front of the Wal-Mart
- ❖ You carried a fishing pole into Sea World.

I was doing some searching and found that there was a page on the internet that listed dozens of “you might be a...” type of jokes. **For instance:**

You might be a bad cook if:

- ❖ the microwave display reads "TILT!"
- ❖ the dog goes to the neighbors' to eat.

You might be a caffeine addict if:

- ❖ you believe that the coffee bean is a vegetable
- ❖ you drink decaf by accident and slip into a coma.

When I begin to think of an individual's walk with the Lord and the fact that it seems at times that we don't Love the Lord like we use to and the following thoughts came to me.

You might not love the Lord like you once did if...

- I. His presence is not important to you any more*
- II. His promises are not important to you any more*
- III. His power is not important to you anymore*

I. You might not love the Lord like you once did if His presence is not as important to you as it once was.

- A. Too often we spend more time trying to find someone to have lunch with than we do seeking for the Lord.**

1. We shop with friends
2. We golf with friends
3. We take trips with friends
4. We e-mail friends
5. We use hundreds of hours of cell-phone time

6. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this except – we spend little or no time in the presence of the Friend that sticks closer than a brother; the Man that laid down His life for a friend.

B. God created us for Himself.

1. He desires a relationship with us.

2. He wants to share our lives as it was in the beginning.

Genesis 3: 7-9 tells of God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day, looking for Adam. Adam and Eve were hiding because of their sin.

C. David knew all too well what it was to miss the presence of the Lord, after his sins of adultery and murder.

In Psalm 51:9-11 he cried out to the Lord, “Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.”

II. You might not love the Lord like you once did if His promises are not as important to you as they once were.

A. Are we more concerned with the news than the good news?

Are we more concerned with surfing the net, that searching the scriptures?

Do we want to know what others think, with no regards for what God thinks?

B. He promises:

To be found	To give patient
To heal	To supply
To save	To comfort
To support	To lead
To come again	

C. Do we take his Promises lightly?

III. You might not love the Lord like you once did if His power is not as important to you as it once was.

A. Are you independent?

1. I have need of nothing
2. I will do it on my own
3. I can handle this

Jesus has this to say in Luke 12:15-21, Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds

of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." NIV

B. Without Him we can do nothing.

We need to realize that we need his power. We need His Spirit. We need to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. If He does not help us we can't be helped

Conclusion

We need the Lord. We need His presence. We need His promises. We need His Power. We need to fall in love with Him again.

The angel said to the church, "Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place."