Dear Open Door Family,

Legacy used to mean what a person left behind for others in their will. Today it is not uncommon to hear some one speak of the Legacy of a politician. That is because they are using the term to refer to what the person has done while in office. In that context it can also mean the way a person will be remembered when they are gone. Hebrews 11 tells us the Spiritual Legacy of many men and the women who have passed on. As I was thinking through these verses in Revelation it made me ask the question, what were the Christians in Ephesus KNOWN FOR when this was written? Let's look at it together.

Revelation 2:1-4 *(NIV) I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. [3] You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. [4] Yet I hold this against you:* ***You have forsaken your first love.***

THESE CHRISTIANS WERE KNOWN FOR: >being faithful servants (worked hard), **>their perseverance** (they did NOT quit), **>standing up against sin** (cannot tolerate wicked men), **>standing for Truth** (saw through the false apostles), **>enduring hardship and NOT growing weary** (keep at it). However, there is a huge problem with the Legacy of the church in Ephesus. They had *"forsaken"* their *"first love"*. Many have discussed what that might mean. But as I looked at the rest of the things they are known for it is clear to me that their love for the Lord Jesus had grown cold. They had hung onto their service and their correct doctrine; they had endured during suffering and never gotten tired, yet they had lost their intimacy and closeness with their Lord Jesus. How does that happen? Does it ever happen to us? Our relationship with the Lord is like any other relationship; you cannot coast. The minute you coast in any relationship and stop working at it and seeking to enjoy the other person, it grows cold. If a husband comes home every night after work and sits in front of the TV channel surfing, or looses himself in surfing the internet and seldom, if ever, speaks with his wife that relationship will suffer and grow cold. They have lost the spark, the passion they originally had. We must continue to pursue the Lord Jesus with a deep desire to know Him better and to enjoy Him more. He wants us to Enjoy being in His presence, He wants us to enjoy talking with Him and listening to Him. When we stop speaking to our Lord and stop listening to Jesus, then we are starting down the same path these Christians did. It is easy to hang onto the truth of what you believe, it is easy to serve, but to keep the relationship with Jesus alive and vibrant will take an active daily pursuit of Him. Perhaps we need to stop and ask the Lord to show us if we have *"forsaken"* our *"first love"*.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, please keep me from departing from my First Love. Keep me close Lord; draw me into a deeper walk with you. Then Lord, help me to Endure, to be steadfast, to pursue You as My Greatest treasure. Help my works and Labor to flow out of my Love for You. Please keep me from ever seeing my walk with You as only a Duty. May I Delight in You and Follow You Closely ALWAYS. Amen

Pastor Mark Kieft
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