**Renewing God’s Plan**

**Revelation 2:2**

**The right purpose but the Wrong Plan**

1. **Moses** knew God’s purpose for the Israelites: Free from Egypt’s Bondage.

* Wrong Plan: Murdered Egyptian taskmaster.
* Right purpose but wrong plan = 40 years in the wilderness.

1. **Gideon** knew God’s purpose to free Israel from Midianite oppression.

* Gathered a great army of 32,000 soldiers.
* God’s plan was to use 300 solider to route 100,000 midianites.

**The church was not commissioned to do good things, BUT God’s Things.**

* The problem is we don’t think like God thinks:

**Isaiah 55:8-9** *My thoughts are not your thoughts, and My ways are not your ways. This is the Lord’s declaration. For as heaven is higher than earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*

* Jesus said, *I will build My church.*
* Jesus is the HEAD of the church: Not a token figurehead. He is actively involved in every aspect of building the church.

**I Know Your Works (Rev. 2:2)**

* Each congregation thought they were doing what was best!!
* The exalted Christ said to each church, *I know your works.*
* Success of the church is not feeling good about us but pleasing the Exalted Christ!
  + None of the churches sought to displease Jesus but Jesus was displeased with each of them. Each church was on the verge of removing their Lampstand.
* God already has a plan for our church:
  + **Noah** didn’t develop a plan then ask God to bless it.
  + We cry out to God to reveal His plan; He reveals to us his plan and the Father’s will to us.
  + God is already at work!
  + As we pray for God to reveal His plan, we MUST keep our spiritual eyes open to see where God is working. It is critical to be spiritually alert to what God is doing.
  + Even Jesus explained His approach to ministry: *The Son is not able to do anything on His own, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son also does these things in the same way. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him everything He is doing.* **John 5:19-20**
  + God will show us what to do and He will show us how to do what he asks us to do.

**ESSENTIALS FOR WALKING WITH GOD**

1. **Seek first the Kingdom of God. Matthew 6:33**

* The #1 priority of each of our lives and our church is the Kingdom of God.
  + Selfishness strangles a church because it does not glorify God.

1. **Let God Direct Your Steps. Proverb 3:5-6**

* We need God to direct our path!!

Isaiah said, *Whenever you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear His command behind you: This is the way. Walk in it.* **Isaiah 30:21**

1. **Give Yourself Away (to Jesus) Matthew 16:25**

* It will be a faith journey that appears we cannot afford what God asks us to do, but He wants us to trust in His provisions.
* The question is not, can we afford to obey? The crucial question is, can we afford not to obey?
* It’s better to obey God immediately than to wait until we are in a position to say yes to God.

1. **Love One Another John 15:12**

* This is not an option: It’s a command!
* Illustration page 36. The Canadian Revival.

**Invitation**

If we will place our plans, our building, our budget, and our preferences on the altar, Jesus will take our church and use it mightily for his purposes.

* Church, are you prepared to do whatever God asks us to do?
* What God asks us to do maybe difficult….and costly.
* But with His command comes His powerful presence and His provisions.
* We are going on Mission with God!