"The Stumbling Power of Losing"

"The Cross: A Foolish Stumbling Block," Pt6

November 6, 2021

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Rev. 1:10 | was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and | heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet Rev. 1:11 saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."



spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden ampstands, a golden sash across his chest.

Rev. 1:12 ¶ Then I turned to see whose voice it was that

Rev. 1:13 and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with





Lev. 26:11 I will place my dwelling in your midst, and I shall not abhor you.

Lev. 26:12 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you shall be my people.



Rev. 1:19 Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after

tnis.





1. Greeting to the angel. 2. Picture of Jesus. 3. Exhortation. 4. Rebuke. 5. Consequence of not overcoming or changing. 6. Promise to the overcomer. 7. Appeal to hear the Spirit.



Three exceptions -Two churches have no rebuke -(Philadelphia & Smyrna) One church has no exhortation ~



The church seems to degenerate while all around the enemies of God seem to get stronger.

First half of history - Faithful in Majority Last Half of history - Faithful in Minority



Finally our Lord has nothing good say about her at all

1Cor. 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,







Rev. 2:1 ¶ "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:



Rev. 2:2 ¶ "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false.



Rev. 2:3 lalso know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have

not grown weary.



Rev. 2:4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at Hrst.







Matt. 22:37 He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' Matt. 22:38 This is the greatest and first

commandment.



Matt. 22:39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Matt. 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."





Jer. 2:2 Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the Lord: I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.



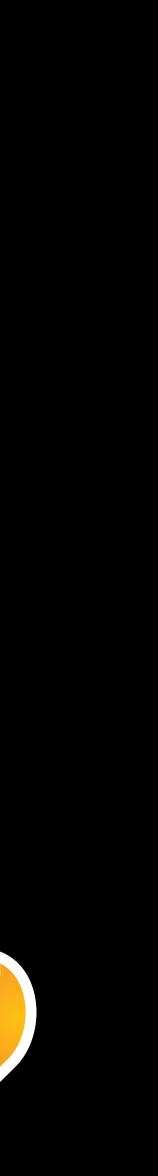


Jer. 2:3 Israel was holy to the Lord, the first fruits of his harvest.

All who ate of it were held guilty; disaster came upon them, says the Lord.



Jer. 2:5 Thus says the Lord: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves?



Jer. 2:12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, can hold no water.

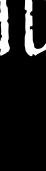
Jer. 2:13 for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, = the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that











Jer. 2:14 ¶Is Israel a slave? Is he a homeborn servant? Why then has he become plunder?



Jer. 2:20 ¶ "For long ago I broke your yoke And tore off your bonds; But you said, 'I will not serve!' For on every high hill And under every green tree You have lain down as a harlot.



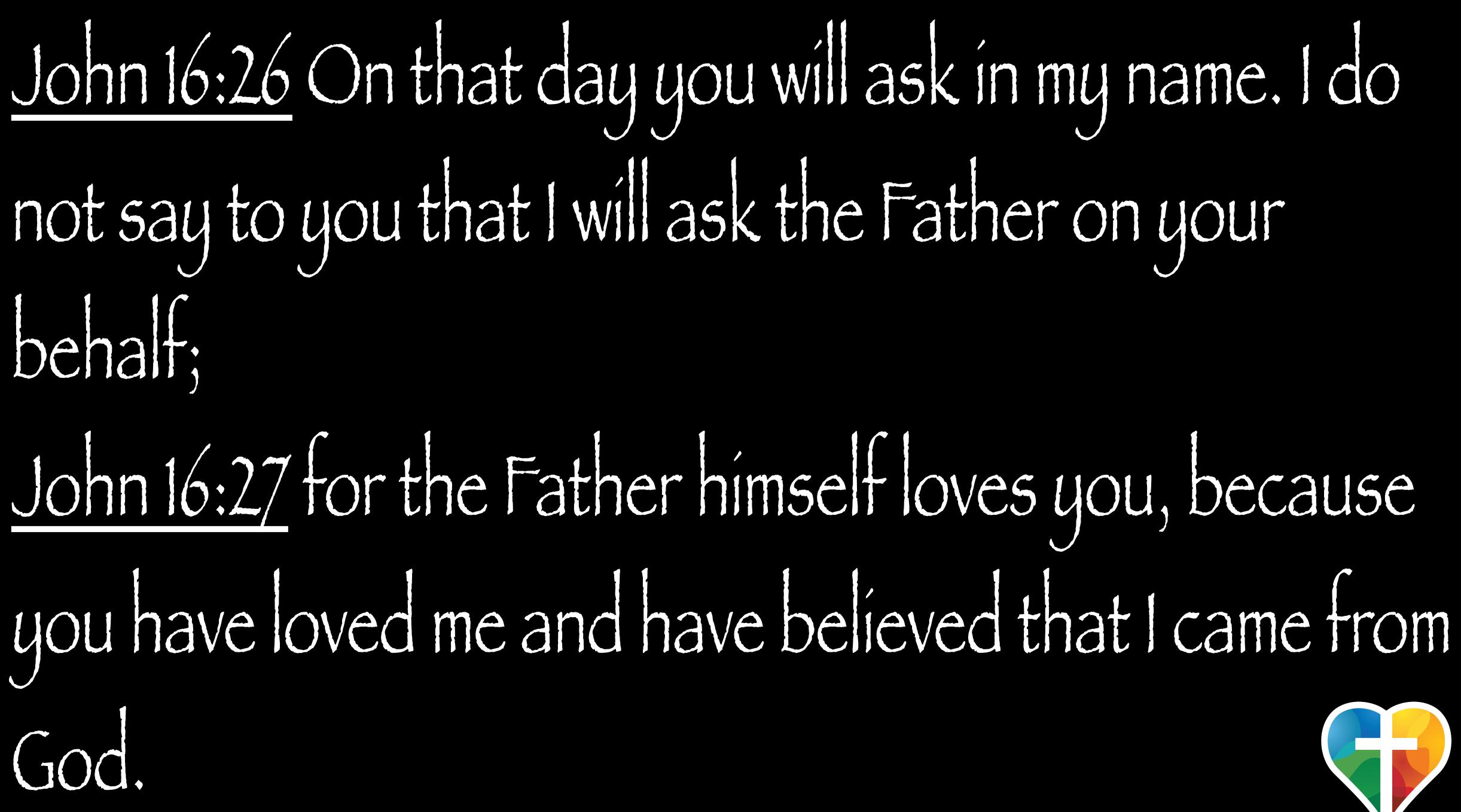


Rev. 2:5 Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you

repent







John 16:26 On that day you will ask in my name. I do

John 16:27 for the Father himself loves you, because







"...See to it that no one misses the grace of God" Heb. 12:15

