

## Revelation 2:2-3 NLT

*I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.*

What would happen if the church became the church again instead of a bunch of business in corporate America? What if they got rid of all their advertising and posting about all they are doing on social media? What if when we walked into a church, we didn't feel like we just walked into a concert arena, ready to see our favorite groups perform on stage, or our favorite speaker talking on stage, and we simply went back to fully teaching the word of God, with that being the main focus, along with prayer and ministering to others?

*"Well, how would people know about what we are doing at our church and the special events and when our services are if we don't advertise?"* some may be thinking. First, we are never told in the bible to advertise or even brag about the church we go to, or about our favorite church or pastor that teaches online, but rather we are to boast on Jesus Christ and God our Savior.

† **Galatians 6:14 (MSG)** *For my part, I am going to boast about nothing but the Cross of our Master, Jesus Christ. Because of that Cross, I have been crucified in relation to the world, set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate.*

Can you find anywhere in the bible where advertising happened telling others where and when Jesus was going to appear next? Two thousand years ago, there was no internet, no social media, no TV's, no magazines, and no smart phones, only word of mouth. Hmm, word of mouth, whoever would have thought of such a thing? **GOD!** And we know that as Jesus instituted it while He walked this earth.

† **Luke 8:39 (NLT2)** *"No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you." So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.*

Jesus just said, *"go back to your family and tell them everything God has done for you."* to this man who Jesus had healed of his demon possession. And because the man wanted to follow Jesus after Jesus cast the demon out of him, this was Jesus' response to him. "Go tell your family" So the man did that, but even more so as we read that *"he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him"* Simply, word of mouth. But if you think about it, even advertisers will tell you that word of mouth is the best way to advertise. But Jesus didn't tell this man to go tell everyone what church he went to, or how great the worship is there, or how great the messages, or the pastor is.

Yet our church mentality is to do, do, do; all in the name of Jesus of course. And we do to draw people to our church, more than to Jesus. Yet have we as a church, and a people, gotten so into doing and being busy that we forgot the first works of teaching, sharing the gospel, and loving on others?

I love what pastor Chuck Smith said about the letter to the church in Ephesus, which was, "*The church of Ephesus had all the 'motions' but they didn't have any 'emotion'.*" It seems that we have gotten into the motions of being busy in the church trying to find ways to get people to come to church. "*I have seen your hard work.*" Yet make little effort to get people to come to Jesus. Even when you read the letters in Revelation to all seven churches, Jesus says the same thing to every one of the churches "*I know your works.*" The issue with the seven churches was not their works, but their hearts.

Jesus didn't tell us to advertise about Him, but to share Him with others. Jesus didn't tell us to be so busy that we forget about the one we are being busy for. Jesus told us to go into the world, not to go and post on social media, or advertise or post pictures of how many things our church is doing. But rather we should be telling others what great things God is doing, not the church.

† **Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT2)** "*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*"

Now don't get me wrong, I love the church the Lord has put me and my family in, I love the pastor and the people, but I love the Lord more than all of those things combined, and we should be making sure people know that we love the Lord more than our church, more than our pastor, more than the people, more than the worship... And we do so by telling others about Jesus, and not our church.

† **Mark 1:27-28 (NLT2)** *Amazement gripped the audience, and they began to discuss what had happened. "What sort of new teaching is this?" they asked excitedly. "It has such authority! Even evil spirits obey his orders!"*  
*The news about Jesus spread quickly throughout the entire region of Galilee.*

† **Luke 8:39** "*Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.*" *And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.*