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Title	REV. 2:4-5: "When any visible people of God continue long and cold and dead and declining in the things of religion, there is a danger that God will take away their religious advantages" (p. 3)
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Rev 2. 9, & now the City I have somewhat against
 thee because thou hast left thy first Love Remember
 therefore how welcome thou art fallen & Repent &
 do the first works or else I will come unto thee
 quickly & will remove thy Candlestick out of its
 place except thou Repent.

The Apostle John in the latter Part of his life had been Princi-
pally Conversant in Asia minor and especially in that
Part of it where were the seven Cities mentioned in these
true Chapt. of Ephesus, Smyrna. Pergamos Thyra.
Sard. Philad. Laod. which were Cities that were in the
Part of Asia that was next to the sea the Divided Asia
from Greece on which was the Island called Patmos
Patmos was John now was ~~at~~ in banishment
considered ^{as} ~~for~~ his Profession & the word of E. & for
the testimony of J. & see 1. Cor. 1. v. 9.

~~I hope~~ These Churches & the Church there were in
this City were it from probably more Churches with
~~which he had much acquaintance and in which he~~
~~he had much in the way of his ministry.~~ but
they had been much under his care he has been
as a Father to em. & therefore being convinced now
confined in the place of his banishment to give the God
not Word, to em as he had been used to do. he by the
direction of J. X writes to em. & desires humbly to em
some seasonally & distinctly Rehearing to em
the words of the L. G. X. ~~and~~
~~hope~~ & desires him to write to the Chls of Episcopie
directing them all immediately to the ministry of

The² Churches because they had the Institution & au-
 thority of the Churches called the angels of the Churches
 & he & directed him to write to the angel Church of
 Ephesus one of the Principal Cities in the Asia minor
 & he 1st we have & Commendation of the Chh.
 & know they were

Fit a Beneficial Commendation. But yet it seems
 that the Chh was in a declining posture & therefore
 2^d by him to reprove & reprove & warning. 1st he is a
 Reproof he Rejoice that they had lost that - first
 love. they were not so fervent in spirit in the Professi-
 on & service of Christ as they were not so zealous of
 nor so zealous of works of Charity as they were

2^d he is not warning. he 1st he warns them of
 the Evil they were in danger having their Candlestick
 removed out of its place. by which we are to under-
 stand their Religious Privileges & advantages
 we have held is meant by the Candlestick by which
 Explication 20 v. of the second Reading Chap -

1st we say the Candlestick being removed & we are to refer
 to the wisdom the John had of this being so in Candlestick
 representing the Chh the seven Churches. Representing the mi-
 nistry of the Churches & the seven Sins in Candlestick
 representing the Churches

1st then by the removing these Candlesticks out of its
 place he intended nothing else than the taking
 away of their Ecclesiastical & Privileged advantages
 the means of a divines that were administered.

4 ministry of the Evangelist Timothy was a right
 light in the Chh of J. & after that it was the Place
 of the shade of the Apostle John & was on his more
 immediate care besides their coming back for their Revd Eld-
 or were appointed ~~under the~~ probably ~~under the~~ direction
 and the conduct & direction of the Apostles.

& they had been formerly for Religion their life was
 near in & their first works were very worthy & excellent
 but they had declined & were already grown & old
 to what they were & were declining more & more &
 therefore ~~withdrawing~~ & threatening them with the
 withdrawing of his visible Presence amongst them. Their
 advantages had been such that God's Spirit & was a Con-
 dition of Gold But this was in danger & he removed

Enq. Whether the Declension & Deadness of a
 People in the things of Relig. appears

Ans. 1 When a People grow old & Dead with
 Respect to Relig. For - Generally it but little said about
~~God~~ ~~when~~ ~~neighbourhood~~ ~~meet together~~
 There would be but little said about it in Family & when
 neighbours meet you shall hear but little talk about me-
 thods & about soul concerns. all the talk will be a-
 bout the C. They'll be full of talk about their worldly busi-
 ness about this & the other worldly design about buying
 & selling. in their tongues will be yet much employed
 in talking against this-neighborhood.
 that which more hearts be most concerned with than ^{their} ^{temporal}

apt to speak their language will be apt to say by Ed⁵
about seven men. hearts are taken up about the ~~the~~ ~~to~~ ~~there~~ they there will be little talk about any thing
but if men are full of Grace alone spiritual & eternal
things & they have the Privilege of the presence of the heart
it will surely be agreeable to our brethren to speak
of them. ~~month 12-34 of the above~~ & when there is a season
for in the things of God. it will often times be the subject
of conversation men will naturally fall into it.
month 12-34 of the abundance of the heart the mouth
speaketh. See Mat 3. 16. May the Lord the L. speak
often one to another.

2. when a People Decline & Grow Cold in Religion. There is
a Decay & Decaying of ^{the} Sabbath in many Places. There
is not the strictness in keeping the Sabbath Day there
~~is not there yet~~. But it will be violated by People
increasing upon holy time at its beginning & by their
talking W-D's & Prophanes things on or By their Cursing
& Swearing talk a Course a sort of Abuse of the
~~Sabbath~~ which do not show that Reverence which becomes
the Sabbath for the Sabbath which is becoming

There is ~~not~~ but appearance of Resilience of & so-
lidity in publick ships which is becoming.

There is a great degree of ~~Religion~~ ^{Soundly} Religion
there is great want of One & this is ~~instructing~~ ^{instructing} child.
~~Children~~ ^{Instructing} Ch. C. & ^{instructing} Principles of Reli.
into one there is not a child One to keep up a constant
attendance on family worship in all the members of the
Soundly There is want of One to keep up a constant

6 now pure & to have a Testimony against scandalous
Iniquity.

3. When a People grow Cold about the thing & dead in
Relig. ~~Outward morality~~ ^{Grace} ~~Grace~~ ^{Immortality} ~~with~~
Possibility are went to Perish. There is a new alli-
ance between morality & Grace the morality done
inward & Grace yet Grace quickens morality. & when
one flourishes amongst a People the other will flourish
& when one decays decay, it is on a ground that
the other also decays. ~~if morality~~ ^{if immortality} ~~is~~ ^{is}
~~suppressed & morality flourishes~~ ^{suppressed & immortality flourishes}
rather amongst a People to a sign that there are many
truly true Converts who have true Grace. but from
this I judge to a sign that the Power of Gods word
declines. ~~See & tis also a sign of a bad society &~~
~~if a People are Cold about the word~~ ^{if a People are Cold about the word} ~~and want of Conversion~~
in men of this kind & decay is a natural Consequence

if men are Cold about in Relig. their hearts will be
warm. ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~practically~~ ^{practically} ~~else~~ ^{else}. if men without & hold fast
be not persuaded vice & wickedness will be.

when a People grow Cold & unconcerned about the thing
of Relig. Injustice & fraud will ~~increase~~ ^{increase} & oppres-
sion will grow there will be an increase of a sp. of
superstition. Licentiousness will increase amongst young
People.

4. When Relig. declines there will be a decay of a
spirit of love amongst the ~~neighbouring~~ ^{neighbouring} & be-
tween ~~where~~ ^{where} ~~Religion flourishes~~ ^{Religion flourishes} of love & peace

[illegible]

3. When ~~ministers~~ a People are old & dead — then
they Trustate their Religious advantages. the life
& Power of Godliness is the End of our need advantages.
They are in ruin to a People if they don't ~~band~~ them
by banding & living in religio. if they don't keep
true on their hearts & bring out good works in
their lives.

By advantage they are no other with advantages
than as they ~~are advantages~~ ~~advantages~~ a people there
"By love, advantage to ~~live~~ live to find to bring
forth fruits of righteousness.

They are frustrated both as they are designed as a means
to be improved by a people in God's Word and to all
glory & as a means of a People's own good for they
are not the whole of a People are all & useful in a

for a man before men a people are left left to religion
they will be likely to forsake it & write none

The vineyard on the Foster Cultivation, is not only
unprofitable as to Good but as to Evil. Both will
benefit the Progress of Freedom & Oppression of Slaves -
the labor that depends, is to me upon it is no other
than merely to keep it from being better
than.

The manner that we enjoyed we improved in the service of Baal the advantages & means of grace which they enjoy do not hinder them in War.

~~How right it is then that they should be taken away~~
under S. Jones a people ~~adventuring~~ ^{they} for their ~~own good~~ ^{more} ~~glory & their own good~~ ^{use} of an ~~unhappy~~ ^{unhappy} ~~to~~
~~it that they should be taken away.~~

Then when the Husband man to enter the house he let
out his wine & clapped them a wantage by beating
his ~~crupper~~ & Earl putting the maffenger that before
to receive the fruits & at last killing him & at last his son
the ~~Prince~~ the poor thimber. And all help arriving
math 21. 33. &c

3 I hath declared that his for full and abiding peace
with men In G. 3.0 where I am writing up on a people
and means of peace his for many he bid to be thriving with
them in ~~two~~ ^{three} ~~ways~~ that may lead us improve those means
his for many he bid to be thriving with them in two ways
his for peace with them that is he with long suffering hearts.

So he did not suffer from the laws after at there¹³
second destruction signified by the parallel of the brown
fig tree in the vineyard Luke 13. 7. & Galilee called
but come the tree cut down at the end of three years, our
^{a person} away (perhaps) to But then perhaps it will
not be an end. ~~Forced~~ 17 months by his cup of the law on
this was typified by St. Cuthbert the brown fig tree in Luke
which he found in fruit Matt. 21. 19. fig tree
Matt. 21. 19.

application

[illegible]

15

~~it may be if it is about to~~ ~~be~~ ~~the~~ ~~land~~ ~~for~~
~~the~~ ~~Regenerations~~ ~~we~~ ~~are~~ ~~right~~ ~~to~~ ~~look~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~Prophet~~
~~difficult & doubtful~~ ~~circumstances~~ ~~or~~ ~~looking~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~
~~advising~~ ~~of~~ ~~S.~~ ~~where~~ ~~our~~ ~~names~~ ~~stand~~ ~~before~~ ~~us~~ ~~and~~ ~~ask~~
~~of~~ ~~if~~ ~~S.~~ ~~is~~ ~~about~~ ~~to~~ ~~depart~~ ~~now~~ ~~about~~ ~~to~~ ~~visit~~ ~~the~~
~~land~~ ~~we~~ ~~have~~ ~~not~~ ~~been~~ ~~by~~ ~~taking~~ ~~over~~ ~~the~~ ~~ad~~ ~~work~~
~~that~~ ~~we~~ ~~have~~ ~~neglected~~ ~~&~~ ~~abused~~ ~~we~~ ~~know~~ ~~our~~ ~~law~~ ~~must~~
~~be~~ ~~very~~ ~~the~~ ~~difficult~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~taken~~ ~~from~~ ~~us~~ ~~and~~ ~~what~~
~~we~~ ~~shall~~ ~~look~~ ~~it~~ ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~according~~ ~~as~~ ~~God~~ ~~has~~ ~~not~~
~~to~~ ~~permit~~ ~~us~~ ~~to~~ ~~leave~~ ~~a~~ ~~mark~~ ~~for~~ ~~our~~ ~~Reverend~~ ~~Rock~~ ~~Sheddy~~
~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~land~~ ~~in~~ ~~Relig.~~
~~if~~ ~~we~~ ~~could~~ ~~one~~ ~~day~~ ~~the~~ ~~greatness~~ ~~of~~ ~~long~~ ~~be~~
~~to~~ ~~receive~~ ~~of~~ ~~our~~ ~~&~~ ~~approved~~ ~~of~~ ~~our~~ ~~disciples~~ ~~from~~
~~we~~ ~~have~~ ~~reason~~ ~~to~~ ~~ask~~ ~~of~~ ~~God~~ ~~for~~ ~~us~~ ~~and~~ ~~our~~ ~~names~~
~~reason~~ ~~to~~ ~~think~~ ~~that~~ ~~S.~~ ~~will~~ ~~deal~~ ~~justly~~ ~~with~~ ~~us~~
~~have~~ ~~we~~ ~~not~~ ~~reason~~ ~~to~~ ~~have~~ ~~our~~ ~~undisputed~~ ~~Remain~~
~~out~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Place~~.

3. Let us remain here from whence we are fallen &
~~Reverend~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~first~~ ~~work~~ ~~that~~ ~~we~~ ~~do~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~land~~ ~~and~~ ~~our~~ ~~names~~
~~of~~ ~~our~~ ~~names~~ ~~draw~~ ~~up~~ ~~a~~ ~~definite~~ ~~way~~ ~~every~~ ~~one~~ ~~to~~ ~~Reform~~
~~where~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~omitted~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~Land~~ ~~&~~ ~~come~~ ~~to~~ ~~us~~ ~~quickly~~ ~~&~~
~~Reverend~~ ~~take~~ ~~the~~ ~~only~~ ~~one~~ ~~Relig.~~ ~~and~~ ~~work~~ ~~of~~
~~we~~ ~~have~~ ~~yet~~ ~~opportunity~~ ~~to~~ ~~Reform~~ ~~if~~ ~~the~~ ~~warnings~~ ~~of~~
~~God~~ ~~and~~ ~~Providence~~ ~~shall~~ ~~now~~ ~~have~~ ~~to~~ ~~offer~~ ~~us~~
~~back~~ ~~on~~ ~~to~~ ~~turn~~ ~~us~~ ~~back~~ ~~on~~ ~~to~~ ~~Reflect~~ ~~on~~
~~our~~ ~~places~~ ~~&~~ ~~to~~ ~~lament~~ ~~the~~ ~~degeneracy~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~land~~
~~not~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~land~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~things~~ ~~of~~ ~~Relig.~~ ~~&~~ ~~the~~ ~~land~~
~~things~~ ~~in~~ ~~us~~ ~~that~~ ~~have~~ ~~been~~ ~~contrary~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~life~~ ~~of~~

¹⁶ God himself ~~will~~ take up for our & share consolation
of doing the best we can may possibly do what
shall be for the long thereby out of our tranquillity

A ~~Let~~ us earnestly cry to G. that he would pour
out his spirit upon us & ~~revive~~ his work amongst
us to revive our first love & ~~first~~ ~~existence~~
us to the doing of our first ~~work~~ ~~work~~ & particularly
that G. would ~~revive~~ ~~his~~ ~~sp~~ in that part of the land & in
this town. He ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~able~~ ~~to~~ ~~revive~~ ~~us~~
as he is able ~~to~~ ~~make~~ ~~a~~ ~~great~~ ~~alteration~~ ~~amongst~~

us ~~that~~
G. it would to revive his holy sp. in us to pray.

& direct us to pray for the Holy sp. & since, as Paul
enjoins against of every blessing, full Luke 11. ~~11~~ 11. & ~~if~~
if a son of man if any of you that is a son —

He the sp of G. in the choicest gift that he has to bestow
yet tis a gift that G. delights to bestow in answer to prayer
He ~~promised~~ the sp ~~was~~ ~~but~~ ~~down~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~professors~~ ~~and~~ ~~believers~~
~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~new~~ ~~and~~ ~~primitive~~ ~~Chh~~ ~~when~~ ~~they~~ ~~were~~ ~~concerned~~
together to pray they ~~now~~ continued ~~in~~ ~~prayer~~
& supplication.

The ~~power~~ ~~of~~ ~~prayer~~ ~~of~~ ~~Gods~~ ~~people~~ ~~love~~ ~~that~~
power to bring down spiritual blessings. The prayer
of Gods people can call G. down from heaven up to
to come the heaven / & come down

Let every one therefore that has any thing of the sp of
Grace & supplication now improve it ~~and~~ ~~use~~ ~~it~~ ~~and~~ ~~use~~ ~~it~~

very little to it but then seems to be a special call
of this time. if God gives his people a heart to
cry mightily to him or answer one his prayer upon
us it will be a happy omen that I is not a yet
about to forsake us & that he will not remove us
and keep us of his Pbes

To shew up to the duties at the time
Let it be Confidential -

1. how Great our Privileges are spiritual &
 outward Liberty to be free & according to
 our Conscience without any restriction from a Ruler
 as we are presented.

we are not burdened with ~~human~~ ^{human} ~~fantasies~~ ^{fantasies} and
visions, of human fictions.

more of the Business and Profession here in my land to make
 to a very other use than any can ship than the
public use can serve best by.

People lib^l of Ch^hing their own interests and are
not obliged to support any ill at that they
choose themselves.

Our Rules since as no modification in our new Bill
x but are made of them ^{in of our power} of the same Principles with
our former & we have liberty of choosing from them
one which I feel as ~~unworthy~~ Bill for Capital & Encour-
aging a Religion in the way that we profess it
we may make what laws for the Defense support of

that has given & unforgotten.

as if we had been totally deprived of that
we had G.D. & finally provide these and a
we have to turn to S. & finally to look to him for the
providing out of his sp. to provide that his work.

as we have my concern for our own good & the good
of our Chil. if of the Country and look these
privileges mentioned there would probably be a wife
attention in the face of things in a little time.

as we might possibly & if you & me had been
to move with the unity of ourselves for our Chil.
God Chil. when when it will be too late.

2. Our Repentance & Repentance to S. will be
the last priority to our spiritual advantages
much better than we now wish. & still S. may
bring the Country into such a state as that the
is it very likely that they shall still not know what
to do. S. may leave us to follow the best
& infatuated & not to understand the thing, that make
for our peace.

S. may leave us to be more to destroy ourselves by our
own folly if frequently it is before S. destroy a people
he just leave them to be infatuated so that they are
bring their own ruin upon themselves.

3. It was in Jerusalem destruction. & before we bring it
upon themselves in Zedekiah's time. the King of Ba-
belon had taken the city and he appointed Zedekiah
to be King in Jerusalem and so on. But Zedekiah
rebelled and the Jews with him they would needs come
their own Privileges of living on God and living down
from the violence of our own, not all.

20
 & the the People general assembly expected them
 to force the King of Babylon & to D. was if they did ~~not~~
 they said that the City should not be burnt with fire
 & they said yet dwell in their own land. But they
 were obstinate against it & to the Chaldeans, took the
 city & burnt it with fire & burned out the King
 eyes & carried the People away to Babylon.

So it was in Jerusalem before in its second destruction
 by the Romans. Titus the Roman General sometimes
 in time made an offer while he besieged the City from
 time to time and an offer of Peace if they would sub-
 mit. But they would by no means hearken to it & the
 they were besieged so long the multitude died
 with famine so that they were not more than
 but the Roman Ch. & dead bodies lay thick about
 the City on every side till they stunk & had a dreadful
 yet they would not submit they would by no means give
 up the Principality & of giving a peace & pardon but save not
 only would they though he belonged to one of the Ch.
 of Abraham & Isaac & Jacob of S. they were exceedingly
 willful.

Some say that the Romans being driven upon the
 S. sometimes leave a People to give them up
 themselves by Contrivance and a Party for amongst them
 taken so it was in Jerusalem. At its second destruction
 with the Romans besieged it without. There were a
 three Parties within all the while & there by
 led on. ~~At the last~~ at last killing one another
 till Titus the Roman the blood ran out under the
 gates of the City & Titus & which greatly affected
 him. The Roman General he left up his hands & in
 giving the order to burn it & so they entered & burnt it
 & would have till the Romans took great delight in