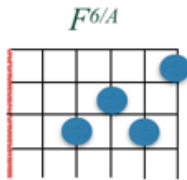


Letter from an Old Friend

Words & Music by Rick Larson & Steve Blechschmidt from Revelation Chapters 1-3
 Sing along with As You Go @ https://static.wixstatic.com/mp3/055bba_d3cc4942d8564d36ac58f67acfb2e812.mp3

CHORUS

C F G7
 Got a letter yesterday;
 C
 Carried into town.
 F G7
 Written by an old friend;
 C
 Haven't seen in quite a while.
 F G7
 We'd been waiting for the news.
 C
 We all gathered round.
 C C7 F G7
 Said we should cling to our first love;
 C Am
 Never let Him go.
 F6/A G7
 If we could just remember,
 C
 All the rest of life would flow.
 C C7 F G7
 When you find yourself alone,
 C Am
 Fear starts creeping round.
 F6/A G7
 Banish fear with hard work;
 C
 World'll claim you as its own.
 C C7 F G7
 As your first love's splendor fades,
 C Am
 Pleasing you eats up your time.
 F6/A G7
 Jezebel will whisper;
 C
 "Build your castles to sky."



Play not upon the reddened strings.



Key ~ C
 Tempo ~ 73bpm
 Time ~ 4/4
 CAPO 1ST FRET TO PLAY THE CHORD PATTERNS ON THIS SHEET

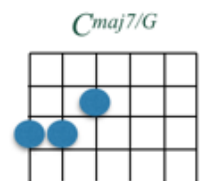
C C7 F G7
 A bonnie gleam and glitter,
 C Am
 Distracting to the eye.
 F6/A G7
 Beholding wealth and glory,
 C
 As passion's flame within you dies.

CHORUS

C C7 F G7
 First love's a dim and distant memory.
 C Am
 Do you have the power to rise?
 F6/A G7
 When a door before you opens;
 C
 Something deep within you cries.
 C C7 F G7
 Fenced in with your golden calves;
 C Am
 Hidden from the light,
 F6/A G7
 Neither hot nor cold,
 C Dm
 Deaf to all that's wise.

BRIDGE

Dm Cmaj7/G F6/A
 Like a breeze off the shore line;
 F6/A F Dm
 His wind words brushing by.
 Dm Am
 Are your ears awake and listenin',
 F G7
 To an old friend by your side?



CHORUS

Scripture

Revelation 1:1-3. The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to His servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

Blessed (*Greek; makarios = blended, joy, contented*) is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear (*Greek; tēreō = to attend to carefully, take care of*), and who keep what is written in it for the time is near.

- **In chapter 2 - 3** Jesus, in His letter to the seven churches describes the slippery slope all believers face.
- **Chapter 2: 1-7** Ephesus - has left (*Greek = left like a divorce, go away from*) their first love (*God*).
- **Chapter 2:8-11** Smyrna - if a person loses their first love, fear creeps into their life.
- **Chapter 2:12-17** Pergamum - fear leads to attempts to fill the void with works which lead a person into self-satisfaction.
- **Chapter 2 18-29** Thyatira - if a person seeks self-satisfaction they are ready to listen Jezebel (*King Ahab's wife*) who teaches that one can believe in and worship anything as long as one is also worshipping the One True God. In our time we are told that one can follow Christ, but does not live like Him.
- **Chapter 3: 1-6** Sardis - if a person worships what he or she constructs, that person only seem to be alive. In fact they are dead. Without Christ a person is dead.
- **Chapter 3:6-13** Philadelphia - if a person is dead, they no longer have the capacity to recognize and accept the opportunity to live that Jesus Christ presents and offers.
- **Chapter 3:14-22** Laodicea - if a person is dead and cannot respond, that person is no longer of any use. Jesus says in verses 15-16: “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”

Yet Jesus continues to hold out hope to all in **Revelation 3:20-22**

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

“Learning is a consequence of thinking,” Reverend Dr. Craig Henningfield