

"All the Work, Without the Love" **Revelation 2:1-7**

Intro:

- * Talk about how something might look on the outside (external), but how after closer examination (internal), we find something seriously wrong
- * Illustration:
- * This is so very true of the church as well (it may look great on the outside, but on the inside, after further examination, something can be seriously wrong!)
Who determines the health of a church?
Jesus does as He does an x-ray of the church and holds it up to the light of truth!
Jesus will do this for each of the churches of Asia Minor, which are representative churches
We need to do a self-examination and allow the Word of God illuminated by the Holy Spirit to rightly show us our own spiritual condition

Transition: Jesus' x-ray of Ephesus looks like this:

COMMENDATION

1. You Have Good Works: (2:2,3,6)

- A. Deeds: Overall Character of doing good
- B. Hard Work: Toil, labor, wearisome effort
- C. Perseverance: Endurance of hardships for the sake and name of Jesus without growing weary
- D. Intolerance: Of wicked men/false teachers (doctrine)
Tested and found false those claiming to be messengers of God
Of immoral practices (behavior)
Hated practices of Nicolaitans

REBUKE

2. But You Have Lost the Love: (2:4)

- A. You have forsaken/left your 1st love!
Not left/forsaken the object of their love, but lost the degree of fervency of the love they had at 1st!!!!
They have not maintained the devotion of their once fervent love
They had forgotten their relationship with the Lord
Good work had taken the place of the relationship; the motivation had become simply the doing and not the being in active relationship with Jesus

INSTRUCTION & WARNING

3. Get Things Right or Lose What You Have: (2:5)

- A.Remember: To actively remember as a way of life (command!!!!)
- B.Repent: To actively repent with regret and sorrow leading to true change of heart and a turning back to the Lord (command!!!!)

C. Return: To actively begin doing the things at 1st to maintain the relationship
(command!!!!)

Recover their zeal

D. Receive: "he who has ears..." Continue to hear, understand and do

E. Removed: Jesus will visit the church with judgments and remove their
witness, testimony, effectiveness and eventually their literal existence
if they do not heed the warning

PROMISE TO OVERCOMERS

4. There Is a Reward to Those Who Change & Continue: (2:7)

A. A reward for those who listen and obey

Eternal Life

This is to those who overcome "losing 1st love" as a way of life

B. This is a message for individuals in the church (to him who overcomes...)

Conclusion:

* Ask, "how does Jesus Christ see Mason Township Baptist Church in light of the
message to Ephesus?"

Revelation 2:1-7
Word Studies

Angel: Probably the bishop or pastor of those churches, the delegates or messengers of church of God

Holds: have in one's power, be master of

Present Participle:

Active:

Stars: The angels or messengers of churches are figuratively denoted as stars who, having received for themselves light from the Sun of Righteousness, wrought by their example both in purity of doctrine and integrity of life to give light to others

Hand: In all important transactions when action must be resolute and involves full participation by the doer, and also when energy and emphasis is intended, the right hand is used

Walks: To walk about

Present Participle:

Active:

Among: In the midst of, among

Lampstands: Represents a Christian church

2:2

Know: Perceive, be aware of

Present Indicative: Asserts something which is occurring while the speaker makes the statement

Active:

Deeds: comprehensively what a man is and how he acts

Hard Work: Toil, labor, wearisome effort

Perseverance: Endurance, patience or constancy under suffering in faith and duty

Tolerate: To bear patiently

Aorist Indicative:

Active:

Wicked Men: Impostors

Tested: Of persons, to put to the test in order to ascertain character, views, feelings of someone

Aorist: Represents non continuous action

Middle: By the subject as acting upon themselves

Claim: To affirm, assert

Present Participle:

Active:

Apostles:

Found: To find out by inquiry

Aorist Indicative:

Active:

Liars: A liar, false

2:3

Persevered: To bear, endure labors or suffering

Aorist Indicative:

Active:

Endured Hardships: Labor to the point of fatigue

Perfect Indicative: Emphasis on the completeness of an action or the finished results

Active:

For My Name: Evils and sufferings which are endured for the name of Christ

Grown Weary: To be weary from constant work

Perfect Indicative:

Active:

2:4

Against: Accusation

Forsaken: To leave, desert, quit

Aorist Imperative:

Active:

First Love: The love first demonstrated

2:5

Remember: To be mindful of, remember

Present Imperative:

Active:

Height From Which: Figuratively of state or condition indirectly

Fallen: Figuratively, to fall away from any state or condition

Perfect Indicative:

Active:

Repent: To repent (involving regret and sorrow, accompanied by a true change of heart toward God) and turn to God from idolatry

Aorist Imperative:

Active:

Do:

Aorist Imperative:

Active:

Things Did:

At First:

Repent: Same as 2:5

Aorist Imperative:

Active:

Come:

Remove: To remove

Future:

Lampstand:

Place:

2:6

Hate: Detest, abhor

Present Indicative:

Active:

Practices: Sins

Nicolaitans: It is probable that they were identical with those who held to the doctrine of Balaam (Rev 2:14) so they likely practiced fornication and the eating of things sacrificed to idols while outwardly professing Christianity

2:7

Ear: He who can hear and understand, let him attend

Overcomes: Overcome, conquer, subdue

Present Participle:

Active:

Give:

Future:

Right to Eat: Spiritually to feed by faith and be sustained in a spiritual and eternal life

Tree of Life: May be an allusion to the Cross

“Tree of Life” is used of a living tree in Paradise and represents the rewards of the believer

A life of crucifixion with Jesus Christ is going to be rewarded by being given an opportunity to eat from the tree of life (believers are going to enjoy the fruits of the tree of life in paradise)

Paradise: The celestial paradise (3rd heaven) where the spirits of the just dwell with God