

Sermon Notes

Jesus Walks Among the Lampstands

“The Seven Sermons of Jesus: Part II” – Revelation 2-3

- I. Review of the most important aspect from last week’s message.
 - A. The all-knowing Jesus walks among the churches.
 1. Jesus “knows.” “I know your deeds.”
 - B. Pastors should know their flock.
 1. They know A _____ and L _____.
 - a. Assets encouraged to be useful for Christ.
 - b. Liabilities strengthened for usefulness for God.
- II. Uncomfortability with the representation of Jesus as found in His sermons to the churches.
 - A. Pastor Don’s experience
 1. Harsh in content or presentation – perhaps both.
 - B. The common perception of Jesus is as a loving shepherd.
 1. John 10:11-14; Hebrews 13:20.
 - C. But also a judge.
 1. John 5:26-30; 12:47; 5:30
 - D. Jesus’ harsher and more blunt tone was always apparent in His ministry.
 1. Examples: Luke 13:1-5; Matthew 5:25-30; Luke 9:57-62; Luke 12:49-53; Luke 14:25-27; Luke 8:19:21
- III. A Call for Directness.
 - A. Reasons for being direct.
 1. First, there may not be any criticism of the Lord Jesus.
 2. Bluntness is used because of the w _____ of

that which is to be communicated.

- B. Consider an Old Testament story.
 1. II Samuel 12:1-15
 - a. Nathan was more than blunt, and he put his life at risk.
- C. Jesus is very direct (blunt, harsh) with His messages to the seven churches.
 1. Commendation? Yes.
 2. But also sober-minded rebuke.
 3. Examples: Rev. 2:4-5; 2:12b,15,16; 2:21-23; 3:16; 3:19.
- D. Jesus did not mince words.
 1. We do not find “Jesus desires a relationship with you,” “Jesus loves you,” “Jesus is the answer.”
 2. Note the absence of the “Love of God” motif. This is similar to the Book of Acts – no occurrence of “love of God” but “repent” and “repentance” is thoroughly used.
 - a. Acts 2:38; 3:19; 8:22; 17:30; 26:20; 5:31; 11:18; 13:24; 19:4; 20:21; 26:20.
 3. Jesus commands repentance in His sermons to the churches.
 - a. Rev. 2:5a; 2:5b; 2:16; 2:21; 2:22; 3:3; 3:19
 4. Repentance means c _____.
 - a. Note Paul on change – II Corinthians 7:8-10.
- IV. Point for Reflection.
 - A. The omniscience of God is both unsettling and a comfort. Nevertheless, may it always lead us to repentance.
 1. Psalm 139.