

Sermon Notes

Jesus Walks Among the Lampstands

“Assessment of Ephesus: Part A” – Revelation 2:1-7

I. Introduction & Background.

A. Introduction

1. The commonwealth known as the church is the same as the commonwealth of the Old Testament.
 - a. Church means c_____ o_____.
 - b. Abraham – Genesis 12:1-2, 3c.
2. Both have unbelievers within their ranks.
3. Both have believers who are apathetic.

B. Background on Ephesus.

1. Facts about the city.
2. Especially identified with three things.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. Pictures from Pastor Don’s trip to Turkey.
4. Artemis Cult
 - a. Coinage of Rome
 - b. Artemis temple.
 1. One of the _____ wonders of the ancient world.

II. Structure of Sermon to Ephesus.

A. The Christ Title.

1. Revelation 2:1.
 - a. Note linkage to Revelation 1:13,16.
2. “He holds the seven stars in His right hand.”
 - a. Note importance of right hand of power.
3. “Seven stars”
 - a. Who are the angels?
4. He walks among the seven golden lampstands.
 - a. Emphasis: His presence.
Note 1:13. (Verb employed in 2:1c)

B. The Commendation.

1. Revelation 2:2-3, 6

2. There are five commendations.

- a. “I know your deeds, your hard work, and your persistence.”
- b. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men.”
- c. “You have tested those who claim to be apostles.”
- d. “You have persevered and have endured hardships for My name’s sake and not grown weary.”
- e. “You hate the practice of the Nicolaitians.”
 1. Who were they?
 - a. Nicolas of Antioch, Acts 6:5.
 - b. Symbolic – *nikolas* means:
d_____ o__ t__ p_____.
 2. Paul’s warning to Ephesus – Acts 20:29-30.
 3. Bishop Ignatius of Antioch’s commendation, 98-117 A.D.

C. The Complaint.

1. “Yet, I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.”
2. Paul knew the church well – Acts 20:20-21, 31
 - a. A decade later, Paul wrote to the pastor of Ephesus
 1. I Timothy 1:4-6
 - b. Jesus’ command – Matthew 22:33-40
 - c. Paul’s parting words – Ephesians 6:24.
3. What is meant by first love?
 - a. Likely breakdown of devotion among the second generation.
 1. Kistemacher.
 2. When we do things because we have to without love, our toiling may be in vain.
 3. Jacob and Rachel.
 4. The rightness of doctrine becomes cold without the warmth of l_____ invested into it.

III. Point for Reflection.

- A. Love of God and love for others. What would Jesus’ assessment be of us?
 1. John 13:34-35
 2. John to the churches: I John 4:20-21, II John 5
- B. Maybe Neil Diamond and Barbara Streisand had it right.

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