

The 6th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, July 1, 2018

“Letters to the 7 Churches ~ Ephesus”

Revelation 2:1-7

New Testament warnings against false teachers and teaching: 2 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Colossians 2:8; and Ephesians 4:14

The Book of Revelation was written down by John in _____ A.D., as a result of a vision from _____.

It was during a time of :

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“It was the Lord’s Day, and I was worshipping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard a loud voice behind me, a voice that sounded like a trumpet blast. It said; ‘Write down what you see, and send it to the seven churches...’” (Revelation. 1:10)

7 Golden Candlesticks =

“So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.” (Acts 19:20)

THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS

The Compliment.

“I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you do not tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.” (Revelation 2:2-3)

JESUS’ 3 COMPLIMENTS

#1. He commends them for: _____
kopos =

“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.” (Colossians 3:23)

“But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.” (James 1:22)

#2. He commends them for: _____

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.” (Galatians 6:9-10)

#3. He commends them for: _____

“I know that fierce wolves will come to you after I leave, and they won’t spare the flock. Some of your own men will come forward and say things that distort the truth. They will do this to lure disciples into following them. So be alert! Remember that I instructed each of you for three years, day and night, at times with tears in my eyes.” (Acts 20:29-31)

Nicolaitans =

Can the same be said of the church today?

Can the same be said of Living Waters?

The _____.

apostasy =

“But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.” (Revelation 2:4)

aphiemi =

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Why are you here this morning?
- Are you here because of your love for Jesus and your Christian brothers and sisters?
- Are you here this morning to express that love in worship or simply because that’s what you do on Sunday morning?
- How is your time in the Word of God? Are you reading the Bible everyday, occasionally, at all?
- Are you actively involved in ministry, using the gifts that God has given you?
- Is your service—whatever it is, inside or outside this church—an expression of your love for Jesus or is it another task on your to do list, a way to keep busy, or to feel good about yourself?

Be honest—this is between you and God—have you lost your first love?

“Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.” (Psalm 73:25-26)

“O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.” (Psalm 63:1)

Can you say the same thing—is Jesus your first love?

The Criticism.

“Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works that you did at first.” (Revelation 2:5)

aphiemi =

JESUS’ 3 COMMANDS

Command #1. _____.

mnemoneuo =

“But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!” (Ephesians 2:4-5)

Command #2. _____.

metanoeo =

repent =

“But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.” (1 Timothy 6:11)

Command #3. _____.

This is a call to:

commitment =

“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.” (Revelation 2:7)

**Do you have ears to hear or are you too distracted
by the noise of the world?**

“To everyone who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” (Revelation 2:7)



Ephesus: You have Lost Your First Love Questions for Application

1. The letter to the Ephesians is all about our “first love.” When did you first encounter Jesus? How would you describe your relationship with Him then? How would you describe your relationship with Jesus today? How do you think Jesus would describe your relationship with Him today?
2. Jesus knew everything about the church in Ephesus and He knows everything about Living Waters. How do you think He would describe:
 - Our labour and toil for the Gospel?
 - Our patience and perseverance?
 - Our response to those who practice evil?
 - Our discernment/testing of teachings in the church
 - Our tolerance of false teachings that contravene Scripture?
3. Jesus also knows everything about you. How do you think He would describe:
 - Your labour and toil for the Gospel?
 - Your patience and perseverance?
 - Your response to those who practice evil?
 - Your discernment/testing of teachings in the church
 - Your tolerance of false teachings that contravene Scripture?
4. Where do you think God would commend Living Waters? What would be His criticism?
5. What can lead a believer to forsake their “first love of God? Describe the process whereby you have seen this happen in your life or in the life of someone else?
6. How can we regain our first love? What “first works” did you do at the beginning of your Christian life that maybe you have forgotten or drifted away from that you need to reclaim?
7. According to this text, why does it matter if a church (or individual) regains (or doesn’t regain) their first love?
8. What thoughts or emotions has this letter raised in your heart and mind? What are you going to do about them this week?