

Series: You Got Mail

Title: To The Loveless Church: Ephesus

Text: (Rev 2:1-7)

Recap:

Basic Outline of the Book of the Revelation

(Ch 1:19) *Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;*

Our Goals:

Is to learn from their Example, Good or Bad.

Is to be Challenged by Christ's Challenge.

Is to Face these challenges in Love, with the Word of God, and Overcome!

OverView Chapter 2-3

Jesus Identifies Himself specifically to each church.

Jesus Commends each Church.

(1 Church He has nothing good to say about it.)

Jesus Condemns Each Church.

(Has a Complaint against them)

(2 Churches He has nothing bad to say about them)

Jesus Councils Each Church.

He has a Command for each on to get back into fellowship with Him.

Jesus Challenges Each Church.

He offers them a promise to comfort them.

I. Jesus Identifies Himself specifically to the Church of Ephesus:

(Vs 1) Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

The Sovereignty of God:

I am in the midst of you.

I have not lost sight of you. (vs 2-3) *"I know..."*

I have your pastor in my hand.

He is God's man to correct, change, command.

Shepherds don't work for the sheep.

Shepherds are not lead by the sheep.

II. Jesus Commends the Church of Ephesus:

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

A Working church: vs 2

A Patient Church: vs 2

A Consecrated Church: vs 2
A Faithful Church: vs 3
A Separated Church: vs 6

Preaching
Doctrine
Repentance
Missions
Testimony

III. Jesus Condemns the Church of Ephesus:

God is in the midst of their church,

The Church at Ephesus thinks they are doing great,
but things are not going well from God's perspective.

A Working church: vs 2
A Patient Church: vs 2
A Consecrated Church: vs 2
A Faithful Church: vs 3
A Separated Church: vs 6

They have become Self Satisfied.

*4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee,
because thou hast left thy first love.*

They would think things are fine, but He doesn't.

A Backslidden Church:

Explain what Backslidden Means:

God does not measure a Church's Health by It's
Attendance,
or The number of Adult Bible Studies,
or The Children's programs,
or The Music, etc.

God measure's a Church's Health by its Devotion to
Him personally.

Illus: First Dates, Puppy Love, Blind Devotion

They had Strayed. - Self Satisfaction:

*There Selfishness is such an Insult you because of
your Selfishness.*

This is Serious.

Love Binds us to another.

IV. Jesus Councils the Church of Ephesus:

*5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen,
and repent, and do the first works; or else I will
come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy
candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. 6
But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the
Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

Remember:

Repent:

C. *“will I give to eat of the tree of life”*

(Gen 2:9)

(Gen 3:24)

(Gen 22:2)

V. Jesus Challenges the Church of Ephesus:

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

A. “Let him hear”

Promised Blessing: (Rev 1:3) *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein:*

(Mk 4:24) *Take heed **what** ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.*

(Lk 8:18) *Take heed therefore **how** ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.*

B. “To Him that Overcometh”

(1 Jn 5:4-5) *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*