

Guide & Record of your thoughts

11/22/2009 - Week 3 Revelation 1:19 - 2:7

Following the Message:

1. (intro) From the beginning of Revelation the church is found in the front - line trenches of the battle.
2. (intro) The church is expected to exercise tremendous influence in the world
3. (1:20) Churches are called lampstands. They are not the light, but they are to hold or bear the light to a dark world.
4. (2:1) The Lord wants to impress upon His church that He's in their midst and observing among the lampstands.
5. (2:2) “*oida*” (know) refers to complete and full knowledge about the church.
6. (2:2,3) The church at Ephesus is commended for their work/deeds and for their knowledge and ability to define/defend doctrine. They would not allow heresy to exist among them.
7. (2:2,3) Basically this church was a servicing church, busy doing the works of the Lord, a sacrificing church, “toiling to the point of exhaustion”, and a patient church, enduring under trials. Could probably give them a grade of A+ based on observation.
8. (2:4) However, all was not well, they had lost their first love.
9. (2:4) J. MacArthur suggests 3 symptoms for evaluating the loss of one's first love. a) the loss of the joy and glow of Christian living. b) the loss of one's ability to love others, and c) a loss of a healthy perspective of ourselves.
10. (2:5) However, one can recapture this lost love by remembering from which one has fallen, by repenting (changing what has taken the place of Jesus in one's life), and by returning/beginning again to do the deeds done originally.
11. (2:5) If one doesn't recapture this lost love, the lampstand will be removed meaning that the church would lose her ability to shed

the light of truth. She would stop shining.

12. (2:6) The Ephesian church and the Lord hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans which means they hated the doctrine that taught that immoral conduct does not affect the spiritual life.
13. (2:7) An overcomer is one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.
14. An overcomer will be blessed and have access to (and eat of) the tree of life, thus never dying This promise is not a reward for only a special group of believers, but should be a normal expectation for all believers.

Reflecting on the Text:

- According to I John 5:4-5, who is “he who overcomes”?
- Imagine that the worldwide Christian Church underwent a performance review. How do you think Christ would rate modern Christianity? On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best) rate the following:

Evangelism _____
Loving one another _____
Demonstrating unity among believers _____
Doctrine _____
Faithfulness to the Word _____
- What if Jesus conducted a performance review of your Christian life? How would you stand up under the scrutiny of an all-knowing God?
- Do you remember your love for the Lord at a previous time in your life as being more intense and sincere than it is now? If yes, what has affected the change you may have experienced?
- Are your current attitudes and actions greater, lesser or the same as when you first came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. (circle one) Greater - Lesser - The same