

What If Jesus Wrote This Church A Letter?

Ephesus: The Loveless Church

(Revelation 2:1-7)

- Introduction:
1. What if Jesus were to write us a letter today, and ask a messenger to deliver and read it to us?
 2. What do you think he would say?
 3. For the next several weeks, we are going to examine 7 short letters that Jesus wrote to churches that existed in the first century.
 - a. Though written 2000 years ago, his praise, warnings, and corrections are as relevant today as they ever were.
 - b. He who ears to hear, let him hear (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22).

I. Background to the Text

- A. Ephesus was a very pagan and immoral city.
 1. Temple of Diana (Acts 19).
 2. Heraclitus – “The Ephesians deserve to be hanged, every last one of them.”
- B. Identity of terms.
 1. Seven stars - (Rev. 3:1) – Angels or Messengers (Rev. 1:20).
 2. Golden Lampstands (Rev. 3:1) – The churches (Revelation 1:20)
- C. Note that Jesus walks among the lampstands – nothing escapes is notice.

II. Jesus’ Assessment

- A. The Lord’s Commendations (Revelation 2:2-3, 6).
 1. They worked, labored, endured, would not tolerate evil, they challenged those who were masquerading as apostles, and hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans.
 2. What a pleasant letter up to this point they must have thought
- B. The Lord’s Condemnations (Revelation 2:4).
 1. They had lost their first love (Rev 2:4).
 2. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).
- C. The Lord’s Correction (Revelation 2:5, 7).
 1. Remember, Repent, Re-do.
 2. A Threat is also associated with this. God will not tolerate sin.

- Conclusion:
1. He who has an ear, let him hear!
 2. If we can hear this message, then it speaks as much to us as it did to them.