

Jesse Nelsen 8/11/2013 PM  
**The Church at Ephesus-  
Revelation 2:1-7**

Introduction:

1. Have you ever wondered what God, Himself would say about the church here in Meadville?
2. One place in the Bible where we have God's "report" card of individual churches are in the book of revelation with the 7 churches of Asia.
3. We are going to look at these 7 churches to see if there are areas where Jesus would say the same things to us and what Jesus asks them to do to fix it.

Discussion:

**I. The Identification.**

- A. Who they were.
  1. The city of Ephesus was the chief commercial city in the Roman province of Asia (western area of modern day Turkey). It was also the center of worship of the Roman Goddess Diana (Greek Artemis) and was the site of a huge temple to Diana, one of the seven wonders of the world.
  2. The church in Ephesus was founded by Paul on his 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journeys (Acts 18:18-21; Acts 19; Acts 20:17-38).
  3. Timothy worked with the church in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3).
- B. Who Jesus said He was.
  1. He who holds the seven stars in His right hand.
    - a. The seven stars are the seven messengers to the seven churches (Rev. 1:20).
    - b. In His right hand would imply authority and ownership.
  2. He who walks in the midst of the seven lampstands.
    - a. The seven lampstands are the seven churches (Rev. 1:20).
    - b. Walking in their midst shows His proximity (Rev. 2:2; cp. Matt. 28:20).

**II. The Commendation.**

- A. He knew their labor (*kopos* = intense labor with toil and trouble-Thayer).
- B. He knew their patience (*hupomone* = to stay under; not waiting but enduring/continuing-Thayer).
- C. He knew they did not bear evil (*bastazo* = to support or carry-Thayer).
  1. They would not tolerate evil among them.
  2. They tested "the spirits" (cp. 1 John 4:1).
  3. They hated the deeds of Nicolaitans (cp. 2:15; Ps. 119:104). The Nicolaitans are "believed" to have taught the Gnostic doctrine of "once saved always saved".
- D. They were persevering (*bastazo*) with patience (*hupomone*) and not growing tired.

**III. The Condemnation.**

- A. They had left their "first" love (cp. 1 John 4:7-21; 2 Cor. 5:14).
- B. They were not doing the "first" works (first = *protos* = first in time or first in rank, principle).
- C. Compare with Matt. 22:36-40 (*megas* and *protos*).

**IV. The Proclamation.**

- A. Repent! Or have their lampstand (church) removed (abandoned).
- B. Overcome! And have access to the tree of life in the midst of God's garden (cp. Gen. 2:9).

**V. Application.**

- A. The warning? It is not enough to be doing good and not evil.
- B. We must remember who Jesus is, what we are to do, and the way we are to do it (Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 16:14) if we would be pleasing to God and be His church.

Conclusion:

1. God is looking for our hearts so that we can be pleasing to Him (Mark 12:30-31)
2. Jesus is in the midst of his churches but He will remove us if we are no longer pleasing to Him