

Lessons from Ephesus
Revelation 2:1-7

Sermon Outline:

Format of Each Letter:

- Recipient — “to the angel of the church of..”
- Description of Jesus — “the words of..”
- Commendation, Complaint, Command
- Consequence of failure to obey
- Call to listen to what the Spirit says
- Promise to the one who conquers

Recipient— “angel of the church in Ephesus”

- Ephesus — Acts 18:19-19:10
- Acts 19:10
- Acts 20:32

Description of Jesus:

“The words of him holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lamp-stands”

- Relationship between Jesus and pastors
- Relationship between Jesus and the Church

Commendation:

- Works, toiling, patient endurance
- Sound doctrine and no-tolerance for false teaching
- Hate the works of the Nicolaitins

Complaint:

- “abandoned the love you had at first”
- Left their first love
- They had all the right beliefs and doctrines but have lost their love for the Lord and mission.

Command:

- Remember
- Repent
- Do the works you did at first

Consequence of disobedience:

- He will come
- Remove their lamp-stand from its place
- The church of Ephesus would cease to be

Promise:

- granted to eat of the tree of life in the paradise of God”
- Revelation 22:14
- “To the one who conquers”

Application:

- The Lord takes seriously the health of His Church.
- The Lord graciously calls us to repentance.
- We can work hard, love doctrine, hate sin, yet miss Jesus.
- What we do for the Lord is important, but not as important as our why.
- How you finish is as important to how you start

Have you grown cold in your love for Jesus?**What is the source of your activity?**

It's not too late.

Remember....Repent.... Restore

Small Group Discussion:

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you in the Scripture and the sermon Sunday? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. How does the description of Jesus in verse 1 speak to the relationship between Jesus and pastors/ Jesus and the Church? How does the image of "he who walks among the seven golden lamp-stands" encourage/convict you?
3. What was the commendation that Jesus gave to Ephesus? Why are these good qualities for a church to have?
4. What was the complaint Jesus had about Ephesus? How do you think they abandoned their first love?
5. How is it possible to know and do all the right things but miss Jesus? Have you experienced this?
6. Jesus calls Ephesus to remember, repent, and do what they did at first. Do you see the Lord's rebuke and call to repentance as a gift of grace? How so?
7. Spend time praying for one another and CrossPointe. That we wouldn't just be a place that has great programming and preaching, but that our love for the Lord and others would burn bright.