

Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Revelation Letter to Church at Ephesus Rev. 2:1-7 (Part 2)

- I. Address and Identity of Christ (2:1)
- II. Commendations (2:2-3)
 - A. I know your works and toil and endurance
Triads
works/toil/endurance - not able to tolerate/tested/found
you have endurance/have endured/have not grown weary)
 - B. I know your doctrinal fidelity
They have practiced both doctrinal and moral discernment.
 - C. I know you have endurance and have endured because of my name and have not become weary

Summary: What a church! Doctrinally sound, discerning, hard-working, faithful and steadfast, steady in the face of opposition.

- III. Criticism (2:4)
 - A. But I have this against you
 - B. Your love, the first, you have departed/left
 - 1. This is not defection in doctrine or practice. It is altogether a matter of the heart, the affections.
 - 2. Some think it is love within the community, perhaps caused by zeal for doctrine.
 - 3. Both love to God and love to the family of God are inseparable
 - 4. The zeal, the warmth, the fervency of love to God and brotherly love had grown cold.
- IV. **Call to Repentance and Threat (2:5)**
 - A. Remember, therefore, from where you have fallen
 - B. And repent



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- C. And do the first works
 - D. Otherwise I shall come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent
- V. Further Commendation (2:6)**
- A. But (however) this you have
... in your favor; Christ closes with an affirmation
 - B. You hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate
- VI. Call to Hear and Promise to the Overcomers (2:7)**
- A. The one having ears, he must hear what the Spirit says to the churches
 - B. To the one who overcomes
 - 1. Persevering faith
 - 2. Remembers, repents, and does the first works
 - C. I shall give to him to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God
OT images (Gen. 2-3)
Tree of life – Ren. 22:2, 14
Paradise – the Garden of God, Eden
The end is like the beginning, but better

Application

The Church at Ephesus shows us that there can many good and healthy things in a church, and although hard working, doctrinally sound, discerning, and persevering, it can depart from its first love.

How about you?

