

## ***Ephesians: A Disappointing Epilogue (Revelation 2:1-7)***

- I. **Introduction**
  - A. The Most Interesting Man in the World
  - B. Perfect Pastors and Perfect Churches
    1. Such ideas stem from a Theology of Glory
    2. As opposed to a Theology of the Cross
  - C. Was the 'Early Church' perfect?
    1. Look at all that Ephesus had going for it!
  - D. Read Revelation 2:1-7
- II. **Exposition: Ephesus Commended, Censured, Commanded**
  - A. The **commendation** (v. 2, 3, 6) – about their Father's business
    1. active – they were doing God's work and serving well
    2. discerning – they were orthodox and sound doctrinally
    3. persevering – they patiently endured in the midst of persecution
  - B. The **Censure** (v. 4) – *you have lost your first love*
    1. like Israel God loved them (Ez 16:8-14)
    2. Jesus primarily taught love for God and for others (Mk 12:30-31)
    3. Paul called love, the most excellent way to live (1 Cor 13)
    4. John taught God is love (1 Jn 4:7)
    5. A child of God is identified by love (1 Jn 4:8)
    6. Love is exemplified for us by God sending Christ (1 Jn 4:9-11)
  - C. The **Command** (v 5, 7)
    1. Remember
    2. Repent
    3. Redo (Ephesians 6:24)
      - a. A warning (Rev 2:5, 1 Cor 13:3)
      - b. A promise to the penitent (Rev 2:7)
- III. **Challenge: Love or Die!**
  - A. Have I lost my first love?
    1. Have I lost the joy I once had in serving Christ?
    2. Have my love and concern for others vanished?
  - B. *Our church has a mission to be done, we have a fight to be fought, we have a creed to be defended, but above all let us not forget, we have a Person to love with love undying.*
- IV. **Application: How do we Remember, Repent and Redo? (A. Strauch)**
  - A. **Study Love** (Dt 7:6-8, 1 Sam 12:22, Is 41:8-10, 43:4, Jer 31:3, Ez 16:6-14, Jn 15:13, Rom 5:6-8, Eph 1:3-6, 1 Tim 1:16, 1 Jn 4:7-11)
  - B. **Teach Love** (1 Thess 4:9, 1 Jn 3:11)
  - C. **Pray for Love** (Eph 3:14-19, Phil 1:9, 1 Thes 3:12)
  - D. **Model Love** (1 Jn 3:16, 1 Tim 4:12)
  - E. **Guard Love** (2 Tim 4:10)
  - F. **Practice Love** (1 Jn 3:18,
- V. **Epilogue to the Epilogue**
  - A. Is this the end of the Ephesian church? How about our church?