

EPHESUS: TRUTH WITHOUT LOVE, Pt 1 - Rev 2:1-7

012421P

INTRODUCTION

1. Historical & cultural context of church in Ephesus.
 - i. Paul in Eph - A19.
 - ii. converts from paganism.
2. Christianity seen as different than Judaism [religio licita] & paganism: opposed by both.
3. Each letter 7-part structure [saw last LD].

1st: The Address: v1a

1. *angel* = messenger. Human/angelic administration of Christ's rule
2. A 20:26-32 - Paul meets w/ elders - accountable to Christ/Word
3. History of competent leadership: Apollos, Paul, Timothy, John

2nd The Identification of the Author: v1b

1. 1:20 authority over *the 7 stars* - Jesus is Head of the church.
2. Jesus speaks to the Eph *lampstand*: He *says this - hear what HS says*.
 - i. regardless of how bright or dim the light, Jesus is w/ church [Mt 20:28]
 - ii. 2nd & 3rd generation Xns: church is over 40 yrs old

3rd: The Evaluation of the Spiritual Condition of the Church: Commends

1. v2-3 I know - omniscience [Hb 4:12].
2. *your*: singular pronoun: who? [1C 12:27] single corporate identity: as one
3. *deeds & toil & perseverance*: labor to exhaustion but not give up: the work of sustaining doct'al truth [1T 3:15].
4. *you cannot tolerate evil men*: took qualifications seriously & *tested* self-appt'd *apostles* & exposed fraud [smthg Cor did not do].
 - i. Eph *cannot* put up w/ them: church discipline for doct'al heresy
 - ii. Sadly Eph cld tolerate loss of zeal & ardor of heart
5. *you have endured - Christ's name* [IIIrd] - *not grown weary* - for 40 yrs ch has been faithful to name of Christ & the truth of Christ.

4th: Words of Praise or Reproof: Reproof

1. v4 - commendation in v2-3 re: past - but Jesus sees the present [*have this against you*] in rln to past: *left 1st love*. Options
 - i. Love for Jesus Himself
 - ii. Love for one another - Jn 13:35
 - iii. Love for truth - 2Th 8-10.
 - iv. Love neighbor & enemies - witness, evangelize
2. All combined = love for Jesus: Jn 14:15. Loss of shining light into darkness The discipline fits the disobedience: remove lamp b/c church is not shining
3. No longer zealous to witness for Christ = loss of love Mt 24:12-14 [v11,24]
4. Loss of 1st love spells removal of lamp: 1C 16:22

Applic #1: We Are All Responsible to Shine the Light of the Gospel

1. The church [leaders & ppl] does action of v2 - 1Th 5:11-14
2. Thankful for our doctrinal heritage & history as church.
3. Phil 2:14-16. All of us are to shine light into the darkness

Applic #2: We Should Be Encouraged By Jesus' Commendation

1. You are to be commended - so be commended!

Applic #3: We Should Be Humbled and Convicted By Jesus' Reproof

1. 2T 3:16-17 *teaching, reproof, correction, training*; Psa 141:5 *reprove me*
2. Lex Talionis dynamic [punishment fits crime]; remove light of lamp b/c church is not shining b/c of loss of love. Let us stand before the gaze of Christ. Two texts grip me - 1 convicts & 1 encourages.
 - i. Zeph 1:12 *stagnant in spirit*. "Acedia" "Xn" nihilism; ennui; weltenschmerz [weary of world]; apathy; cynical indifference. At issue is self-centered, self-indulgent petulant pride - displace w/ greater love.
 - ii. Jn 21:15-17 - there is One worthy of our love
3. Who/what is object of our affections? Jesus asks - *Do you love Me?* Let's begin here: *Yes Lord, you know that I love you.*