

April 24, 2020

Seven Letters of Love - Part 1

Rev. 2:1-7, “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for My name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

Jesus has now appeared to John on the island of Patmos, where he had been banished for his faith. He then tells John to write down all that he is going to see as He ‘reveals’ many things that had yet been unseen. In chapters 2 and 3 we find seven letters to seven churches. Each one is a letter of encouragement, correction, and even rebuke in some cases. But, in fact, that is what real love is all about. To know the truth and not share it is not love. Jesus shares with each church what would help them be the body of Christ that they should be for this world.

Letter 1 - To the church in Ephesus

Jesus commends them for their hard work and perseverance; for being faithful and diligent. “To come to Christ costs nothing, to follow Christ costs something, but to serve Christ costs everything.” - DeHaan. Mt. 10:39, “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” He commends them for being a separated church- being in the world but not of the world. He commends them for being a pure church, not accepting the teachings of apostasy by the Nicolaitans. He commends them for being an enduring church for their steadfastness in times of struggle. He commends them for being a set-apart church by sticking to the gospel message. All of these things were encouraging marks for the church in Ephesus and yet all of these things couldn’t hide the one thing that they were missing; their first love.

“Although basically faithful, they had unconsciously succumbed to the natural tendency of letting even the most wonderful experience become commonplace” - LaHaye. This happens when we take our relationship with Christ for granted. It has been said “if Christ is not first in your life, then He’s not Lord of your life.” Jesus implores them and us to do one thing - repent. Turn back to His love and not the religion of “doing.” Jesus is always more interested in our being rather than our doing. This comes from a pure love for the Master.

Dear Father, help us to love You more than anything else. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on You. Help us remember what You have done for us and what You want to do through us. We just want to be in Your presence and in Your love. In Jesus Name, Amen