

**REVIVING
A
RETREATING CHURCH**

REVELATION 2:1-7

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1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Revelation 2:1-7 - continued

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Introduction

A. Seven three-dimensional letters come from Jesus

1. To actual churches



Introduction

A. Seven three-dimensional letters come from Jesus

1. To actual churches

2. To church ages

3. To all churches at all times

Revelation 2:17

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Introduction

B. Our congregation is also three dimensional

Romans 12:5

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

1. We have individual needs

2. We have family needs

3. We share church needs

1 Corinthians 12:26

And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

Introduction

C. The Lord reveals a plan to revive a retreating church

1. The church needs to prevail

Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

2. We are not to give ground

Luke 19:13

And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Ephesians 4:27

Neither give place to the devil.

I. The Lord Praises The Church (vv 1-3)

“I know thy works”

A. Jesus starts by praising the church for positive points

Matthew 25:21

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

B. Our Lord commended the church for labor, patience, and faithfulness

I. The Lord Praises The Church (vv 1-3)

C. Praise is positive, complaining is negative

Philippians 4:6-8

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

I. The Lord Praises The Church (vv 1-3)

Look for good things

II. The Lord Pointed Out A Problem In The Church (v 4)

- A. The church looked good but had a serious problem**
- B. When love declines in our walk with God, we stray from Him**
- C. When love declines in a marriage, it becomes mechanical**
- D. When love declines in a church, everything becomes ritualistic**

III. The Lord Revealed A Prescription For Revival In The Church (v 5)

**Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and
repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto
thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his
place, except thou repent.**

A. Remember

B. Repent

C. Return

Revival awaits