

WHAT JESUS LOOKS FOR IN A CHURCH **(Christ's Messages to the Seven Churches in Revelation 2-3)**

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- **Author & Recipients:** The apostle John and the seven churches in Asia Minor (Revelation 1: 9-11).
- **Historical context:** Written around 94-96 A.D. at a time when the churches were under great satanic attack. The devil's one goal was to destroy the church. His weapons:

PERSECUTION FALSE TEACHING SIN DISCORD
- **Purpose:** The revelation of the **ULTIMATE VICTORY** of Christ in order to encourage the churches to be faithful in persecution, resist error while holding fast to the truth, and be holy in character & united in purpose.

THREE QUESTIONS TO ASK THROUGHOUT THIS SERIES

1. What does Jesus look for in a church?
2. Does Jesus find what He is looking for here at EBC?
3. Are we willing to give Jesus what He is looking for no matter the changes it will demand?

THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS (Revelation 2: 1-7) **The Church Who Gave Jesus Everything But the One Thing**

THE FAITHFUL WORKS OF THE CHURCH

1. Faithful to **SERVE** the cause of Christ (v. 1-2a)
2. Faithful to **STAND** on the truth of Christ (v. 2b)
3. Faithful to **SUFFER** for the name of Christ (v. 3)

THE FATAL WEAKNESS OF THE CHURCH

1. Failure to **LOVE** the person of Christ (v. 4)
 - **Examining their history:** They did not love Christ as they **ONCE DID**.

- Examining their priorities: The Bride stopped giving her Groom the one thing He desired most - **HEARTFELT WORSHIP**.
- Examining their Christianity: It had become a **ROUTINE TO ENDURE** rather than a **RELATIONSHIP TO ENJOY**.

2. Failure to **LIVE** the gospel of Christ (v. 5a)

- The Gospel's Gift is to **EMBRACE** the treasure of Christ.

Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous THAT HE MIGHT BRING US TO GOD. 1 Peter 3: 18

...I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.... Philippians 3: 8

- The Gospel's glory is to **EXALT** the worth of Christ.

...Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1: 20-21

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2: 9

- The Gospel's goal is to **ENJOY** the person of Christ (Matt. 26: 6-13).
Is the Gospel producing in **MY HEART** what it produced in Mary's heart?

THE FORCEFUL WARNING TO THE CHURCH

1. **REMEMBER** - *Remember therefore from where you have fallen...* (v. 5a)
2. **REPENT** - *...and repent...* (v. 5b)
3. **RETURN** - *...and do the deeds you did at first...* (v. 5c)
4. **OR REMOVAL** - *...or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lamp stand out of its place — unless you repent* (v. 5d).

Only when our **LOVE BURNS** for Christ
will our **LIGHT SHINE** for Christ.

