

“The vital signs of God’s presence”

SERIES: #WHAT DOES GOD THINK?

THE SEVEN LETTERS OF REVELATION

PART 1: EPHESUS: THE CARELESS CHURCH

WBC SERMON NOTES 13/10/2019

INTRODUCTION: Today we celebrate a great milestone – 40 years of ministry. We can celebrate many things! Outwardly we can see much growth. Forty years on: what does God think of our church today?

The keynote of the book of Revelation is

Understanding Revelation 2-3

- The 7 golden lampstands represent the 7 of Asia Minor.
 - The PURPOSE of the lampstand is to give
 - It is a GOLDEN lampstand because Christthe
- The seven stars / angles (1:20) are the messengers – the elders or pastors of the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- Why SEVEN letters? Various viewpoints:
 - A C..... message to the church of John’s day
 - A C.....message addressing the 7 ages of church history.
 - Best seen as a C..... a message for all church of all ages.

There was tremendous persecution. Emperor Domitian demanded to be worshipped as “Dominus et deus” – “..... and”

Every generation faces the question of Lordship! Who is Lord of your life?

Ephesus the city:

Ephesus: the vanity fair of Asia. Pagan Temple Diana – goddess of fertility.

Hereclitus: “No one could live in Ephesus without weeping at the immorality.”

The vital signs:

Jesus examines his church: they had one thing lacking:

they had lost their

1. THE APPROVAL ~ The Ephesus Church had much going for it:

The Church at Ephesus was a:

- A S..... Church (v2a) “I know your deeds”
- A S..... Church (v2b) “your hard work”
- A S..... Church (v2c) “and your perseverance”
- A S..... Church (v2d,6):
 - separated from (v2d) “tested”
 - separated from (v6) “the Nicolaitians”
- A S..... Church (v3)
“persevered....endured hardships .. not grown weary.”

2. THE ACCUSATION ~ “I have this against you”

V4: You have abandoned your

The Ephesian Christians had exchanged their P..... love
for P..... love

Jesus on THREE DIRECTIONS OF LOVE

- LOVE - John 14: 15,21,23

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments”

- LOVE - John 13:34-35

“Love one another, even as I have loved you ... By this shall all men know that you are my disciples.”

John 15:13

- LOVE - John 20:21

“As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”

3. THE ADMONITION ~ How do you regain your FIRST and BEST love?

Jesus instruction – v5:

“Remember 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.”

FIRST, you must R.....(v5)

“Remember how far you have fallen”

SECOND, you must R..... (v5)

* What are the idols of your heart?

* Who / what is really “Lord of your life?”

Heb 12:1-2 “Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith”

THIRD, You must R..... the works you did at first. (v5)

A GLORIOUS PROMISE – V7.

The overcomer – the soldier, a true believer, whose faith gives them victory.

The tree of life –

RESPONSE: What must I do in response to today’s sermon?