

“A warning for the Churches”

All Scripture is KJV: Revelation 1,2,3.

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ON THIS MATTER.

Understand from Revelation 1 what Jesus said about the churches in Asia.

From this message of Jesus we can draw a conclusion of the matter for the churches today in our own times.

- Please remember and understand this message.
 - It was a message that **Jesus had given to the Church's** at the time of John the Apostle as well as at the time of when Jesus had ascended to His Father.
 - It is a message to true and existing churches which were **operating in Asia** at the **time of John the Apostle.**
 - Jesus used these church's as examples of how a church could be filled with saved people but still miss the mark in faithfulness.
- ✓ Some would perhaps say that the message from Jesus to John the Apostle in Revelation 1 was simply a message describing the church age through history.
 - ✓ But if that was the case then why is the message addressed to each church individually?
 - ✓ Also if that was the case then **why did Jesus continue to mention the same churches in Revelation 22.**

Revelation 22:16

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Revelation 1 King James Version (KJV)

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him (John), to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

² Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

³ Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

⁴ **John to the seven churches which are in Asia:** Grace be unto you, and peace, **from him which is, and which was, and which is to come;** and from **the seven Spirits which are before his throne;**

Where are the Seven Spirits?

- Around Jesus

Isaiah 11 King James Version (KJV)

¹ And there shall come forth **a rod out of the stem of Jesse**, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

² And **the spirit of the LORD** shall rest upon him, **the spirit of wisdom** and **understanding**, the **spirit of counsel** and **might**, the **spirit of knowledge** and of the **fear of the LORD**;

³ And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

⁴ But **with righteousness shall he judge** the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the **rod of his mouth**, and with the **breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.**

Revelation 2:27-29 King James Version (KJV) – spoken also in Isaiah 11:1-4

²⁷ And he shall **rule them with a rod of iron**; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

²⁸ And **I will give him the morning star.**

²⁹ He that hath an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

To continue.....

⁵ **And from Jesus Christ**, who is the faithful witness, and **the first begotten of the dead**, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and **washed us from our sins in his own blood.**

⁶ And hath made us kings and priests **unto God and his Father**; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. **Amen.**

⁷ Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, **Amen.**

⁸ I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

⁹ I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

¹¹ **Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:** and, **What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia;** unto **Ephesus**, and unto **Smyrna**, and unto **Pergamos**, and unto **Thyatira**, and unto **Sardis**, and unto **Philadelphia**, and unto **Laodicea**.

- ✓ If these churches did not exist at that time then how could that letter be sent to all the churches then?
- ✓ John was instructed by Jesus to send that letter to the Seven churches which were in Asia, and mentions them all by Name.

¹² **And I turned to see the voice that spake with me.** And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

¹³ And **in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man,** clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

¹⁴ **His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;**

¹⁵ **And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.**

¹⁶ **And he had in his right hand seven stars:** and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

¹⁷ And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And **he laid his right hand upon me,** saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

¹⁸ **I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**

¹⁹ Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

²⁰ **The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.**

1. Notice from all the churches, they were in fact practising Christian churches.
 2. They were not a cult.
 3. They were believers otherwise why would Jesus even speak to them as a church?
 4. Jesus does not say they never believed, but Jesus pulls them up for not following certain things which they were commanded to do.
- Notice each church's chastisement. These are the very same things wrong with believing churches today.

Notice that each church gets a rebuke from the Lord.

- Notice that it is the Spirit of the Lord that is giving the church the ability to know what to do that is right.
- Notice what those Spirits of righteousness are.

It is those Seven Spirits which are mentioned of Jesus in Isaiah 11.

They are.....

1. **the spirit of the LORD** shall rest upon him,
 2. **the spirit of wisdom** and
 3. **understanding,**
 4. **the spirit of counsel** and
 5. **might,**
 6. **the spirit of knowledge** and of
 7. **the fear of the LORD;**
- The churches today in our own time are either missing all or some of these things that Jesus rebuked them for.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....

PART 2.....A WARNING TO THE CHURCHES.

Based on Revelation 2 and Revelation 3.

As part 2 of the message to the Seven churches we will discover what were the problems with those churches, and compare them to the churches of today.

1. From Revelation 1 we saw that the message from Jesus was a message of various rebukes to each one of the Seven churches which were in Asia.
 2. It was not a message to those in Judea or Samaria or to the Jews. But it was a message to those churches located in Asia.
 3. The messages of Rebuke that Jesus gave were all to true churches, who had saved people in them who had believed in Jesus.
 4. If they were not true church's I highly doubt that Jesus would have praised them in some respects of what they were doing right?
 5. Remember that God said.....for whom he loves he will chasten,and that's the message to the churches then, and for the churches now.
- So God who is also Jesus would not have brought praise to unbelievers.....
 - Anyhow.....neither what has light to do with darkness if they were not saved.
- ✓ John wrote what Jesus told him to write.
 - ✓ And what he wrote included the message to the Seven churches.
 - ✓ John was told to write.....

Revelation 1: 11

¹¹ Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, **What thou seest, write in a book**, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

- ✚ So what was the message to the Seven Churches all about.
- In Revelation 1: 20 this was a message to the seven Pastors as well as to the seven churches.

From Revelation 2:1 we see the picture in the scriptures that Jesus is the head of the church and the scriptures picture him as walking in and out of all these churches with the commanding authority of having those pastors accountable in His hand as the shepherds leading that flock.

It pictures Jesus as the head of the churches. It is therefore not surprising that He can voice His authority of that which is His.

Look with me.....

Revelation 2:1 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;

Here is the message in verse 2:

Revelation 2:2 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.

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

1. Even though they did the works. -
 2. Even though they laboured.
 3. Even though they had patience.
 4. Even though they could not bear those who were evil around them.
 5. Even though they had tried the false prophets – those who were not actually preaching the truth for God.
 6. Even though they found those false prophets to be liars.
- Even though this church at Ephesus had done all these good things. Yet Jesus was still not happy and found fault with that church.
- Why do you think that is?

✚ **So what was their fault?**

- **Well their fault was that they had lost their first love?**

✚ The church at Ephesus is told by Jesus.....

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.

1. Jesus internalised what was happening in the church at Ephesus. People were all about trying to sort out other people but yet they themselves had just as much issues as the people that they were trying to sort out.
 2. They were pointing out evil and had stood for what was right, but yet they themselves individually had lost their first love.
 3. Yes they were a church who stood for sound doctrine because they hated false prophets and evil, but yet they had lost sight of their first works.
- ✚ Well....what was that first works? Because part of that first works that they had lost....they had also lost their first love.

Well let's think about that for a moment.....

1. What did Jesus say to his first disciples.....follow me and I will make you fishers of men.
2. What did Jesus say to all his disciples in Acts 1: 8 – He told them that they had to be witnesses for Him.

Acts 1:8 King James Version (KJV)

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

3. What did Jesus tell His disciples at the end of Mathew, Mark and Luke. He told them togo and preach the gospel to ever creature.
 4. So it seems to me that the greatest thing that a church can do is to tell its congregation to go out and preach the gospel.
 5. Because if you love people and preach the gospel you will get your first love back.
- Tell me this.....when you first got saved what was the first thing you wanted to do?
 - Was it not to go and tell others about the greatest gift that you had received from Jesus.
 - Did you not burn within yourself to share the good news of Jesus with others?
 - Did you not want to share the greatest thing that ever happened to you?
- Well if that was all true.....then you had that first love of wanting to share that truth with others.
- ❖ It was not that this church of Ephesus had stopped working.
 - ❖ Yes they were working and keeping busy with all the things that Jesus praised them for.....but they had forgotten their first works.
 - ❖ Which meant that Jesus had to tell them that they had forgotten their first love.

You see as a church we can get busy. And we can do all the right things, and learn all the right doctrine, but if all we are doing is taking it in and not sharing the gospel then we are guilty of the judgement of Ephesus.

- ✓ The importance of every church is not just to adhere to teach the correct doctrine, but more so to be witnesses of the gospel of Jesus to the uttermost parts of the earth.
1. In Revelation 2:5 it explains what the church had to do.
 2. It was not that they were not saved people.....It was the fact that they were just keeping themselves busy with all kinds of good things but had forgotten their direction.
 3. The direction they had forgotten was to turn back to that which was important.

4. They had to “repent”and it was not just from Sin.....they had to repent of going the wrong way. They had to turn to the right way.
5. Because if they did not “repent” and turn to the right way Jesus said he was coming toin verse 5...

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. This was a warning to a saved church. But a dead church. It needed to “repent”. This repentance was a message to the “whole church” to turn in the right direction and not just to an individual message to a person?
 7. The repentance was for them as a church “the candlestick” to “turn to your first love. That of the gospel to go out and preach it to everyone, and not to just keep it for themselves as a church.
- ✓ This was a church which had sound doctrine, even though the Nicolaitanes were trying to influence them.
 - ✓ They had put up their guard against false prophets and to abstain from idols and fornication which they had been facing from these false prophets.
 - ✓ And so for their stance against the Nicolaitanes they are praised by Jesus.

So what can we learn...from Ephesus.

1. Yes doctrine is extremely important.
2. But....we must never forget that our first love is to see the souls of conversion by the preaching of the glorious gospel of Jesus.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....

Psalm 2:7

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I **begotten** thee.

John 1:14

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only **begotten** of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:18

No man hath seen God at any time, the only **begotten** Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only **begotten** Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:18

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only **begotten** Son of God.

Acts 13:33

God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I **begotten** thee.

1 Corinthians 4:15

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have **begotten** you through the gospel.

Hebrews 1:5

For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I **begotten** thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

Hebrews 5:5

So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I **begotten** thee.

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath **begotten** us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 John 4:9

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only **begotten** Son into the world, that we might live through him.

1 John 5:1

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is **begotten** of him.

1 John 5:18

We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is **begotten** of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

Revelation 1:5

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first **begotten** of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,