

Sermon Questions

Revelation 2:1-11

The week we began our study of the seven churches that are addressed in chapters 2 and 3 in the book of Revelation. After a quick overview of the seven churches that we will be addressing we spent some time discussing the structure in each of the letters. These six items can prove helpful in our interpretation of the Scriptures.

We began our study by looking at the first two churches. First, we studied the church in Ephesus. Ephesus was a strong church who had become performance-driven rather than living in their identity. These factors caused this church to lose its primary ministry to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Next, we studied the church in Smyrna and learned that this church was encouraged to persevere in trials, imprisonment and even death. This church reminded us that we should not fear tribulation or death in the work of Christ.

Here are some notes to review from this week's sermon...

The Structure of the Letters

1. Recipient
2. Attribute of Christ
3. Strengths
4. Weaknesses
5. Challenge
6. Promise for the Listener

Ephesus: The Performance-Driven Church

Do not forsake your primary ministry to passionately pursue Jesus Christ

Smyrna: The Persecuted Church

Do not fear tribulation or death in the work of Christ

Hearing the Word of God and responding to Him is extremely important. If you haven't had the chance to listen to the message from this week you can now watch it here. After watching, please use the following questions (if you find them helpful) in your BRAVE groups (now online every weekday) or discuss them with your family and/or friends. If you are not in a BRAVE Group now is a great time to get involved. Please email to info@bravechurch.co and we will get you connected with a community that will work for you.

1. What comfort do you receive knowing that Jesus Christ is walking among the church and holding leadership in his hands? Why is it essential to understand WHO is in charge of the church?
2. What were some of the strengths of the church in Ephesus? Were they doing the things God wanted? How did they handle evil men? How did they handle false apostles? How did they deal with difficulties when serving became challenging? Did they grow spiritually weary? How would you grade the church in Ephesus if this information was all you knew about them?
3. What was the weakness of the church in Ephesus? How significant was that weakness? Why would God care so much about that weakness?
4. How long should our primary ministry be a priority to passionately pursue the Lord Jesus Christ? What happens if we lose this? Is it possible to “go through the motions” without a motivation for Jesus? What ministry is more important than our passionate pursuit of Christ?
5. Describe your own pursuit of Jesus right now. Is it a joy and passion and a priority or are you “just being religious”?
6. How are the Ephesians instructed to return to Christ? Why is repentance a foundation in our growth with Jesus Christ? How does repentance differ from performance? When was the last time you repented? Of what?
7. What is an overcomer? What promise does Jesus make to the one who overcomes? How much do you yearn to eat from the tree of life?
8. What had been the experience of the church in Smyrna? How is Jesus introduced to this church? Why would this church find it particularly important that Christ has been raised from the dead?
9. How does God look at churches different than we do? What does it mean that man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart?
10. How did God view the church at Smyrna differently than they viewed themselves? Why did God say they were rich even though they were extremely poor? How is materialism a hinderance to the Gospel? How is it hindering you?
11. How were the religious people (specifically unbelieving Jews) making it difficult for the church at Smyrna? Why is it difficult when non-believers say hurtful things about us? How are we to handle our response in love?
12. What is the church promised when they overcome? Why is the second death worse than the first? We can die once (to our sin) and live twice (now and in the coming

kingdom) or we can live once (in this world) and die twice (physically and in eternity). Which choice are you making?

13. How important is the crown of life? How often do you yearn for it? Would it be worth any trial or tribulation or even death to attain it? Do you live without fear knowing that you belong to Christ?
14. What does “he who has ears let him hear” actually mean? What did you hear spiritually this weekend in the message that you are applying today?