

The Revelation of Jesus.

Week #3: The Church in Ephesus

January 21, 2018

The Book of Revelation describes the end of God's story. It is a book full of imagery that has caused much speculation, confusion and division in the Church. But at its very core, Revelation carries a simple and powerful message: "I, the Risen Christ, am returning soon - so be ready for my return." Of course, within that message is an equally powerful one that keeps our commitment to Jesus strong during times of great uncertainty: Christ has defeated death, and upon His return will end the madness of our world as we know it. So until then, we wait, but do so knowing fully that Christ's victory is assured ... and His victory is also our victory.

As we study the first chapters of Revelation, I ask you to prayerfully study and pray each week in order to be assured that the Risen Christ whom we worship is on the move. And be ready.

Study Questions: #3 - *The Church in Ephesus*

1. Read Acts 19, where Luke describes the birth of the congregation in Ephesus.
 - How did these early events in the life of the Ephesian church likely shape its ministries and its history?
 - What events have shaped the ministries and history of congregations you have been a part of ... maybe even New Life?
 - What events are shaping our congregation today?
2. Jesus had good things to say about his church in Ephesus.
 - Take a moment and consider the vital need for these good things in every church. What do they do for a congregation? How are they present in our life together?
3. With the good, Jesus also sees the danger, and loves this church enough to confront and warn his dear people. They have forsaken their first love for Him.
 - In light of all that the Ephesian Christians have going for them, how could this fatal flaw have arisen?
 - What do you think they might have been doing in the beginning that they are no longer doing now (verse 5)?
 - What is it like to get so comfortable, you find yourself in a rut, where doing the right thing lacks the passion and excitement that you originally had?
4. If you had "dropped in" on these brothers and sisters, how might their life together in worship, fellowship & ministry looked like? What would the danger signs have been?
 - Would you have noticed their fatal flaw?
5. Jesus promises a rich blessing for those who repent and overcome (verse 7), yet he does not instruct them specifically how to get their first love back.
 - Putting yourself in this congregation, what would you do?
6. What must we do together at New Life to recover our original passion for Jesus, and guard ourselves from losing it?
 - Pray for this diligently & urgently!
 - Pray for your own life - that you might always possess a passionate love for Christ that never becomes stale.