

THE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

SCRIPTURE: REVELATION 2:1-7

INTRODUCTION

HERE BEGINS SEVEN MESSAGES FROM THE LORD TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR. TO THE EPHESIAN CHURCH THERE IS BOTH COMMENDATION AND CENSURE, AND A STRONG EXHORTATION TO REPENT. LISTEN TO WHAT THE LORD IS SAYING:

I. I KNOW THY WORKS

HEBREWS 4:13 NEITHER IS THERE ANY CREATURE THAT IS NOT MANIFEST IN HIS SIGHT: BUT ALL THINGS ARE NAKED AND OPENED UNTO THE EYES OF HIM WITH WHOM WE HAVE TO DO.

- A. THE COMMENDATION
 - 1. FOR THEIR TOIL
 - 2. FOR THEIR PATIENT ENDURANCE
 - 3. INTOLERANCE OF EVIL
 - 4. DOCTRINAL PURITY
- B. HE IS ALWAYS AWARE OF OUR WORKS

II. I HAVE SOMEWHAT AGAINST THEE

MATTHEW 23:39 O JERUSALEM JERUSALEM ... HOW OFTEN WOULD I HAVE GATHERED THY CHILDREN TOGETHER, EVEN AS A HEN GATHERED HER CHICKENS UNDER HER WINGS, AND YE WOULD NOT.

- A. THE LAMENT OF A SPURNED LOVE
- B. A LOVE GROWN COLD
 - 1. WORKING FOR HIM
 - 2. PROFESSING ALLEGIENCE TO HIM
 - 3. YET INSENSITIVE TO HIS PRESENCE

III. REPENT ... OR ELSE

REVELATION 2:5 REMEMBER THEREFORE FROM WHENCE THOU ART FALLEN, AND REPENT AND DO THY FIRST WORKS; OR ELSE I WILL COME UNTO THEE QUICKLY AND REMOVE THY CANDLESTICK OUT OF HIS PLACE, EXCEPT THOU REPENT.

- A. THE CHURCH'S "EMPLOYEE SYNDROME"

- B. CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE FRIENDS OF GOD
 - 1. WORSHIPPING
 - 2. VALUING HIS PRESENCE
 - 3. DEVELOPING AN EVER DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM
- C. THE VALUE OF WORSHIP
 - "WHEN IT BECOMES AN ACT OF WORSHIP TO DO THE WILL OF GOD, THEN WE ARE HEADED FOR 'CAMP MEETING' VICTORY" --DON BRANKEL--
- D. THE PROMISE TO THE OVERCOMER
 - 1. OVERCOMING AN APATHETIC ATTITUDE TOWARD JESUS CHRIST
 - 2. EATING OF THE TREE OF LIFE