

Legalism vs. Love

Rev. 2:1-7

84/19 by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church (Series: End Times Motivation!)

Understanding Ephesus

- History/ geography
 - 1,100 year history ruled by many foreign kings
 - Excellent harbor made it a prime location
 - Largest, most influential city in Asia Minor
 - 250,000 population (4th largest in Roman Empire)
- Culture (and economy)
 - Driven by religious tourism
 - Fertility rituals and cult prostitution
 - Areas near temple safe for criminals from arrest
 - Riotous living
- Gospel connection
 - Paul -> Timothy -> John
 - Influential church
- Church culture and life
 - Borderline legalistic
 - Keeping false teaching, evil living at bay

Hearing the message (2:1-7)

- Tested those who call themselves apostles and were not (v. 2)
- Not growing weary (v. 3)
- Abandoned the love you had at first (v. 4)
- Gospel usefulness could be removed (v. 5)
- Hated works of Nicolaitans (“to conquer layity”)
 - Embraced cultural moral standards (immorality)
 - Sexual “freedom”
 - Church rejected this
 - Church must maintain a love for Jesus
- “He who has an ear...Spirit to churches” (v. 7a)
 - 1) Individuals in the church must listen
 - 2) You need to listen to the message by the Holy Spirit to all the churches (not just yours)
 - A great promise to the one who conquers (v. 7b)

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 - _____ church
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to _____ the churches (not just yours)
- A great promise to the one who conquers (v. 7b)

The Christian’s “first love” for Jesus is because He would:

- ✓ Willingly leave His rightful place in heaven,
- ✓ Come to earth as a human being,
- ✓ Live life with all the trials and temptations that any of us face,
- ✓ Be wrongfully and mercilessly executed
- ✓ And do all that so *you* could be forgiven of your sins against Him.