



First Love

Revelation 2:1-7

The Bottom Line: Anything that is not done in devotion is actually distraction.

Introduction:

The Church gets a bad wrap these days.

While we should not completely ignore what other people say about the Church, it is Jesus' opinion of the church which should matter most.

Jesus loves His Church with unending love and desires to see it flourish in the midst of a broken and crooked world.

Truth:

The church at Ephesus was a beacon of truth in a society of deception, however; Jesus had words of both commendation and correction for this church He so loved.

Look with me at Revelation 2:1-7.

[illegible]

Application & Conclusion:

As far as Jesus is concerned, anything that is not done in devotion is actually distraction. What good is a church that has been busy in various activities, standing firm on doctrine, and speaking out against those who cause evil, but they have simultaneously lost their devotion to the One for whom they do it?

Jesus is first and foremost after your heart and the “heart” of the church. Have we lost our affection and devotion to Jesus? We cannot let our busyness with ministry and good preaching fool us. The only thing that will sustain our faith and our church is passionate love for the Lord.

If you have lost it over the years, then Jesus has counsel for you today:

1. Remember: Think back on the early days of your faith.
2. Repent: Acknowledge your coldness toward the Lord.
3. Re-do: Go back to some of those first practices you did early on for Jesus.

Do not just ignore this. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches in these words from Jesus: The one whose heart is set on Jesus will eat from the tree of life in the Paradise of God.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does this teach me about God?

2. What does this teach me about me?

3. How do I apply this to my life?