

The Intentional Life (Part .2)

“The one Thing missing”

Text: Rev. 2:1-7

Introduction: In book of Revelation Jesus addresses seven things to seven churches that were intended for all churches to read and benefit from. These seven messages are given to seven literal churches that represent churches of all ages (today we'll look at one). The message of Jesus to this church is His message to the church today. And any message Jesus has for the church should also speak to each of us individually as well because we are the church. So, while we review this message, we must apply it personally; and examine our own hearts and intentional living when it comes to our faith. The first church Jesus addresses is “the church at Ephesus”

I. I noticed your excellent works church: (v.1-3) They were standing up to the task –

1. **They were a serving church** - A busy church doing the works of the Lord – (Eph. 2:10) Something every church need.
2. **They were a sacrificing church** – Their service involved personal sacrifice!
3. **They were a steadfast church**
Patience - The word patience carries the meaning of "endurance under trial."

II. I noticed your excellent commitment to doctrine church: (v.2b)

There was no compromising with corruption here!

1. **They hated moral evil** – (1 Cor 5:11-13)
2. **They hated ministerial evil** – (v. 2b)(Rom 16:17; 2Thes. 3:6)
Our beliefs determine our behavior! (Acts 20:28-31)

III. I noticed your excellence in endurance church: (v.3) They were standing the test of time and these were not easy times!

1. **They were a suffering church-** (v.3)
2. **When it came to suffering for the Savior** – this church wasn't backing down – they bore up!

And we say - Obedient and active on the surface, what else could one ask for from a church?

That's because we can only see “on the surface”! This church was missing something thing and it happens to be *the most important thing!*

And when Jesus says, “I have this against you...” We better listen up because this is going to be important!!

IV. I noticed your exit from your first love: (v. 4)

Notice He said, “You have “left” (not lost) your first love...”

- A. The vitality of their passion was gone –**

When it comes to serving the Lord - *what we do for Christ is important – but what is more important is, why we do it* (2 Cor 11:2,3)

B. The validity of their profession was gone (v. 5a)

1. This seldom happens instantly – it is a gradual slipping away...
2. Outwardly, they looked impressive, but inwardly, their works came from a distant wrong and warped motive!
Jesus reminds us to: (Matt 22:37-39)
 - a. It is only as we love Christ first and fervently that we serve Him faithfully and effectively!
 - b. Jesus reminds them without love for Me, you have no light to share with others!

What can be done for the church and individual that reaches this point?

Jesus gives...

V. Excellent advice to this church and us: (vv.5b -7) Jesus says they needed to consider four things.

1. **Remember** (*The excitement, Joy, the love*)
2. **Repent** (1 John 1:9; Ps.51:12)
3. **Repeat** (The things you used to do)
4. **Removal**
 - a. Removal of the lamp stand meant to extinguish their existence. (Because)
 - b. Where there is no love for Jesus, there is no light for Jesus! (1 Cor. 13:1-3)
 - c. **Jesus says one last thing** – *he who has an ear, let him hear!!”*
A church or a Christian without a genuine love for Christ first, is nothing more than a false witness!

Conclusion: If we are going to raise the level of our living – we must start with intentional living in the area of our faith!

Intentional living in my faith must begin with replacing “The one thing missing!”