

Sermon Notes

Jesus Walks Among the Lampstands

“Assessment of Ephesus: Part B” – Revelation 2:1-7

I. Introduction

- A. Review of last week.
- B. Power Point presentation on Ancient Ephesus.
- C. The commendation of Ephesus (Last week).
 - 1. Hard work and perseverance.
 - 2. Cannot tolerate evil men.
 - 3. Test those who call themselves A_____.
 - 4. Prove I_____ false.
 - 5. Hate the deeds of the N_____.
 - a. Destroyers of the people.”

II. Heresy and false religion at Ephesus.

A. The Artemis Cult

- 1. Huge feature to life.
- 2. Description by Pausanias.
- 3. Statue of Artemis.
- 4. Note the connection to Acts 19:25-34

B. Imperial Cult

- 1. Christ vs. Caesar.
- 2. “Backgrounds of Early Christianity.”

C. Magical Writings

- 1. World renowned as a center for magical practices.
- 2. Incantations, spells, magical words.
- 3. The “Ephesus Letters”
 - a. Became slang for “Magic” in the ancient world.

III. What about the need for doctrinal purity today?

A. Ephesus was commended for doctrinal purity.

- 1. Need for Westminster Confession of Faith.

B. Who are examples of the Nicolaitans “destroyers of the people” today?

- 1. J_____ O_____
- 2. K_____ C_____
- 3. R_____ B_____

a. Background on Rob Bell.

C. Examples of how heresy infiltrates the thinking of the church.

- 1. Excerpts from Rob Bell’s recent book, *Love Wins*.

IV. Remember what Ephesus was commanded to do.

A. The correction.

- 1. Revelation 2:5

a. Remember

b. Repent

c. Do the works you did at first.

- 1. The call is to do works not belief.
Doing must match believing.

V. Point for Reflection

A. The consequences (The sober warning)

- 1. Negative

a. “If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand.”

- 2. Positive

a. “To him who overcomes (Literally conquers) I will give the right to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

b. Overcomes – *Nikaō*.

- 1. Are you a _____ Christian?

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