Sermon Notes

Jesus Walks Among the Lampstands

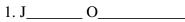
"Assessment of Ephesus: Part B" - Revelation 2:1-7

- 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 t_____ 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 Nicolatians "destroyers of the people" today?



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. <u>Remember</u>
 - b. <u>Repent</u>
 - c. Do the works you did at first.
 - 1. The call is to do <u>works</u> not <u>belief</u>. 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 <u>overcomes</u> (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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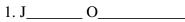
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