

John's Revelation Revealed: Is Jesus Really King?

Week Three – Messages to the Churches

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- A. A Message to each Church in particular; PERSONAL & CORPORATE
- B. Recipient
- C. The SENDER
- D. Message

1. "I KNOW"

2. Diagnosis:

- a. Positive: I know your works; you HATE which I also hate

A hard working church, experts at recognizing real and false apostles, experts at recognizing what wasn't truly Christian, they HATED false doctrine

3. Rebuke/commendation: they HATED and didn't LOVE (contrast Thyatira)

4. Promise:

- a. To him who OVERCOMES: a technical word ("who is he that overcomes the world but he that believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" 1 John; Romans: "We are MORE than overcomers" in the battle to be fought).

Ephesus: "I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life" (Genesis 3: The way to the tree was barred by a great cherub with a flaming sword); the city's symbol was a date palm called the "Tree of Life."

3 major EMPHASES in the imagery:

- 1. A LAMPSTAND: the Church as a light bearer and its particular light-bearing capacity, its testimony of Jesus
- 2. Jesus has come to "trim the wicks" and clean up—the things that effect its light-bearing capacity
- 3. Interested in 3 things:
 - a. DOCTRINE: what they teach; how they treat the WORD of God
 - b. BEHAVIOR: how they LIVE
 - c. ATTITUDE of heart toward Him and toward others, SENTIMENT effects behavior

Bad doctrine leads to bad behavior; bad behavior leads to bad doctrine; good and bad attitudes of heart are involved in both doctrine and behavior(love/hate)

Things are beginning to go wrong in some places in their world. Some of these churches have begun to get off course and they are compromising their faith in the gospel, compromise their doctrine. Others are orthodox as can be, but their behavior is rigid and loveless. Others have grown cold in their hearts.

Church 1 was extreme in hate and didn't love

Church 4 was extreme in love and didn't hate

Church 7 did neither