

SEVEN

Church at Ephesus

Read: Acts 19. Revelation 2:1-7

1. When was the last time you read Revelation? Did you understand it? What is its “big” message?
2. The Lord “walks among the seven lampstands” (churches). Does this thought bring a sense of comfort and consolation or a sense of dread to you?
3. What do you think defines a good church?
4. How does the Risen Lord commend this church at Ephesus? What aspects of our church do you think the Lord might commend? (don’t forget – the Lord sees very differently than we do!)
5. These Christians had “endured hardships and not grown weary”. Why do you think they endured hardships? (think about Ephesus as a city). What hardships have you encountered for being a Christian? How do you think you would have coped if you were a Christian living in Ephesus in those days?
6. Read v2. The Ephesians would not tolerate wicked men. Steve believes that tolerance has become the defining virtue of our generation and to be seen as intolerant is the worst possible sin. Why is that? He also quoted Rick Warren, who wrote, *“Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone’s lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don’t have to compromise convictions to be compassionate.”* Thoughts?
7. What flaw did the Lord see in the Ephesian church? (v4) What did Jesus instruct the church to do about it? What is our lesson today? What does this tell us about the Lord?
8. Francis Schaeffer wrote, “The Christian who acts for doctrinal faithfulness and does not show love to the Divine Bridegroom is like the wife that does not sleep with anyone else, but never shows love to her husband”. In which way does this describe the church at Ephesus? What does it say to you?
9. In advance for next Sunday, read Rev. 2:8-11.