

Revelation Series

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The Worst Church in the Bible! Part I

Intro: We have here in verse 17, the Laodicean's church memberships personal opinion of themselves. God does not share this opinion and says the reality of this congregation is that their opinion makes Him sick. Christ is going to bring about reality versus perspective and uses various characteristics of Himself to point the seriously lacking spiritual characteristics that should be evident in their lives, but are not there. Here is the rule of thumb, what applies to the church, applies to the people who make up that congregation. It is often said that a church will take on the personality of their pastor over time; if they like his personality, they'll stay, if not they'll leave. Every church has its own personality.

So, what are some of the things that make for a bad church?

Characteristic #:

I. They had a know-it-all _____ – (Amen) – Revelation 3:14.

- A. In each of the churches thus far Christ has _____ Himself in the capacity to which He is offering Himself to them to help them!
1. He has come to them stating that He _____ to help them and identifies as the "Amen".
 2. This word means that which is _____ and one is in agreement with what is said.
 3. It is the making of what has just been read or preached as one's _____; in agreement.
 4. Jesus is telling them that He is that which is right and true.
 5. And so Jesus introduces Himself in other areas that they were _____ lacking:
 - a. He is the faithful witness therefore what He is about to say is His _____ observations of them.
 - b. He is about to reveal their opinion of themselves and their actual reality. (Romans 12:3)
 - c. As the "true witness" He is going to be right up front with them & tell them the truth.
- B. They saw themselves as _____ everything & Christ wants them to realize they are grossly ignorant.
1. There is no help for them unless they realize Christ's _____ of them is spot on.
 2. Have you ever tried to help someone who knows everything?
 3. It is almost impossible to teach a know-it-all or someone who knows all the answers.
- C. One of the great weaknesses of our _____ is an unwillingness to admit we have a problem even when it is pointed out to us. We can be more prideful than we are wanting to admit!
1. This church was so very wrong on so many levels concerning self-assessment.
 2. It is one of the reasons we so _____ need to be in the Word of God.
 - a. The Bible reveals what is really going on or not going on in our lives.
 - b. The Word of God is a _____ – James 1:21 – 25. (A mirror to our soul.)
 3. As Christ seeks to help this congregation, He also wants to help us be _____ and genuine as Believers. A true transformation and a true Conformity to Christ.

E. How does all this fit into our lives?

1. It will for the most part _____ how we respond to the preaching of the Word of God.
2. Biblical preaching is designed to cause the _____ to fall from our eyes –
(II Cor. 4:4 versus I Cor. 2:14 – 16) (John 9:25) (Luke 2:32, “lighten” – to lay bare)
3. When we come to the Scriptures, we allow them to speak to us without _____ notions.
4. We are looking to be _____, to be _____, to be encouraged & directed. Why?
5. So we can be conformed more & more, day by day to the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. The Scriptures will never leave us with an _____ of ‘I’ve arrived.’
7. Since Jesus is the goal of which the Holy Spirit & The Word is directing us towards, there is more for us to know and more to apply to bring about godly changes in our life.
 - a. We will see areas of _____ changes such as attitudinal changes.
 - b. Thought-life changes II Cor. 10:2 – 6.
 - c. Bringing our flesh under control – I Cor. 9:24 – 27. Galatians 5:17 – 25.
 - d. The need for more divine wisdom – James 1:5 & 6; How does God provide this wisdom?
(Through His Word and learning/gleaning from the Bible’s history.)

F. One of the Bible’s greatest _____ is to bring spiritual growth through convictions meant to bring change from a carnal Christian to one who is more like Christ with each passing day. Rom. 8:29 & 30.