

Revelations Study

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Outline/Power point by Pastor Gangwer

'How to keep a church from dying'

Intro: Remember that we are dealing with seven literal churches in Asia Minor and at the same time dealing with seven characteristics of churches that exist in any given age by way of application. While we tend to focus on a church as being a building, a local church is actually people! We have seen in this section dealing with the church at Ephesus, that Christ begins sharing the good things involved in their ministry, things which should be emulated. Then warning them that they had reached a crossroad in their lives in which they could continue on in greatness or spiritually die. Tragically they did go by the wayside, when they eventually disappeared is not clearly understood. You may be thinking that it is the natural fate of all churches to eventually fade away, which is not what the Bible teaches. Every fundamental church that begins has the power to remain so for perpetuity. (Matthew 16:18) Every church is only one step from extinction, one generation in the sanctuary and the next is in the nursery. If we do not raise the next generation to love the Lord and righteousness, then the church will slowly die a spiritual death generation by generation. At a family gathering when my mother was alive, she commented as she watched her various families and the next generations choices that it only took one generation to spiritually digress.

God wants us to rely on Him for all our present circumstances. He has created us in Christ to be alive, be vibrant and pass on to the next generation the power of living godly lives that honor God. And never forget, Satan doesn't have the power to destroy churches, but we do when we let spiritual truths slip through our grasp. No church has to die, but when they lose sight of God and separational truths, they lose their vision and Proverbs 29:18 and Lamentation 2:9 becomes the reality.

What does it take to keep a church from dying? Seven things from Revelation 2:7 that will in the power point be prefaced by **'There needs to be a continual emphasis on:'**

I. There needs to be a continual emphasis on _____ – (ear) – Revelation 2:7

- A. The word *ear* here is in reference to a _____ person.
 1. These messages are directed to the churches of Asia Minor which are formed of _____.
 2. Only the Redeemed of the Lord have the ability to receive & understand the _____.
 3. John 10:26 - 28 and I Corinthians 2:12 – 16.
- B. People often ask where do some of the cults come from and the answer is manifold.
 1. Romans 1:19 – 23.
 2. Some having read the Bible as unsaved individuals distorted the _____ of God's Word.
 3. People such as Joseph Smith & the Mormons; Mary Eddy & the church of Science; Charles Russell of the Jehovah's witnesses; & Ellen White of the Seventh Day Adventist, just to mention a few.
- C. God _____ the Believer with ears to hear what the Holy Spirit has to say to the Redeemed.
 1. Working from _____, the Holy Spirit speaks and convicts – John 16:7 – 15.
 2. How does the Holy Spirit convict the world? Through the _____ and _____ life of the Believer.
 3. The only genuine truth the unsaved can pickup on are such verses as John 3:3.

- D. So, one must be _____ if they are wanting God to unlock the truths of the Bible to them.
1. The parable of the sower – Matthew 13:9 – 16.
 2. First Timothy 2:4.
 - a. Only the saved have the potential to _____ the Bible.
 - b. Only the saved have the potential to understand _____.
 - c. Only the saved have the potential to understand how a church is to _____.
 3. The unsaved form committees and boards & operate under Robert's Rules of Order, not the Holy Spirit.
 4. We are to live by _____ and not rummage sales and fund raisers
 5. The Redeemed build their lives around the local _____ & the unsaved build theirs' around the world.
 6. The Redeemed have a saving serving faith, the unsaved a fleshly self-serving agenda.
- E. With a saved generation in the _____ and an unsaved generation in the _____, we ask ourselves,
1. What happens if the nursery generation _____ their back on salvation?
 2. We can't afford to turn over the local church to an _____ generation. (Joshua 24:15)
 3. Think of all you know about life, being saved, separation and the Bible.
 4. What happens to all this & more if the _____ gain control of the local church? (Sons and daughters)
 5. All of God's truths get turned upside down and lies & deception _____.
 6. A statement made by another preacher which turned Bob Jones Senior's thinking around was, "Every soul is going to live somewhere for all eternity," Heaven or Hell!
- D. Without a continual ***emphasis on salvation*** it won't be long before the unsaved take over the local church, because there'll be no light – Rev. 2:5, it will be removed!

Some additional emphasis to come:

- II. We must continually emphasize being separated.
- III. We must continually emphasize the Holy Spirit.
- IV. We must continually emphasize pastoral authority.
- V. We must continually emphasize victorious Christian living.
- VI. We must continually make much of salvation.
- VII. We must constantly emphasize heaven.