**The First Baptist Church of Columbus**

**Dr. Paul Large, Pastor**

**Sermon Notes Outline for video posted September 26, 2020**

**T I T L E: THE CHURCH OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY**

**T E X T: Revelation 2:1-7**

**I. THE CHURCH OF TODAY, NOT UNLIKE THE CHURCH OF YESTERDAY, INCLUDING EPHESUS, HAS AS ITS PRIMARY ASSESSOR, SUPPORTER AND ADVISOR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. V. 1**

Revelation 2:1 ---- “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

A. “Angel” is a reference to the leadership in the church and more than likely refers to the pastors of the churches however, this personal address of recognition to pastoral leadership does not give such leaders carte blanche authority for leadership in the church. (Christ is the head of the church.)

Colossians 1:18 ----And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

B. Leadership in the church, past or present, is and always will be subject to His concern and assessment as well as His protection. (“HOLDS”)

The protection and continuation of the church is His responsibility and, according to His word, the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

The church will always be around.

Matthew 16:16–18 ---- 16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

**II. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE CHURCH OF TODAY TO BE RELATIVELY SOUND AS THE CHURCH OF YESTERDAY BUT HAVE A MAJOR FLAW IN ITS MINISTRY THAT MERITS CHRIST’S DISAPPROVAL**.

A. The church of yesterday as well as today may be worthy of commendation.

1. He commended them for their commitment to the work of the church and their perseverance. V. 2

Revelation 2:2 ---- ‘I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance,

2. He commended them for their commitment to sound doctrine.

Revelation 2:2 ---- ...that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false.

Essential Doctrines of the Church... Hank Hanegraaf has a series of teachings on the essential doctrines of the church.... Deity of Christ... Resurrection, Trinity, Salvation, etc. Evangelicals: some believe that Christ was simply a great teacher but not God...

3. He commended them for endurance. V. 3

B. The church of yesterday as well as today may be worthy of commendation but also in need of rebuke from the Lord. V. 4

They had lost their first love.

One source said this: “A cooling of personal love for God inevitably results in the loss of harmonious relationships within the body of believers. Jesus had made it clear that “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35). Love for other believers was the distinctive badge of Christian discipleship, but at Ephesus hatred of heresy and extensive involvement in the works appropriate to faith had allowed the first fresh glow of love for God and one another to fade.

**III. THE CHURCH OF YESTERDAY AS WELL AS TODAY, ALTHOUGH DOCTRINALLY SOUND AND MINISTRY WISE BUSY, MUST CONSIDER THE NEED TO NOT ONLY SERVE THE LORD WITH THEIR HANDS AND HEAD BUT ALSO WITH THEIR HEART. V. 5**

 The Lord who walks among the churches of today advises the doctrinally sound and busy church of today to consider the need that the ministry they provide with their hands and head needs to originate in their heart as it did when they were first redeemed when their love for one another flourished.

“Remember” imperative mood --- Continuous tense --- continuing attitude over against a decisive break. Repent is an aorist tense verb speaking of a decisive break. Repent once and for all time and continue to love the Lord with all your heart daily.

“...FROM WHERE YOU HAVE FALLEN” SUGGESTS THAT LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER IS A MAJOR NEED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ... IT SUGGESTS THAT ALL WE DO, ESPECIALLY IN THE FAMILY OF GOD, NEEDS TO BE TEMPERED WITH LOVE.