

ENDGAME:

A Study On Revelation (Week #9)

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EPHESUS: _____ to Spiritual Intimacy

EPHESUS: PERSONAL APPLICATION

We Must _____ Him

- What We Should Know?
- The _____ of Knowing Christ
 - What does the one who walks among the lampstands see?
 - All the things you do
 - Your hard work
 - These were to be commended, because they are necessary and right.

Luke 13:24 Work hard to enter the narrow door to God's Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. (NLT)

2 Peter 3:14 And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. (NLT)

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. (NIV)

Ephesians 4:3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. (NLT)

1 Peter 1:5 And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. **7** These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. **8** You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.

9 The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls. (NLT)

- The _____ of Knowing Christ
 - What does the one who walks among the lampstands see?
 - Your patient endurance
 - You have patiently suffered for me without quitting

There obviously had been much opposition. The church in Ephesus started with resistance from those that had the money. It was not popular. But they had hung in there.

Hebrews 10:36 Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. (NLT)

2 Peter 1:5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, **6** and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, (NLT)

- The _____ and _____ of Knowing Christ
 - What does the one who walks among the lampstands see?
 - You examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not
 - You have discovered they are liars
 - In other words, you have exposed them
 - There is this process of examination and exposure that must be carried out

Ephesians 5:10 Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. **11** Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. **12** It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. **13** But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, **14** for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light." (NLT)

*If I am going to be intimate with God, I must find out what pleases Him.
And whatever truly does not please Him must be exposed and done away with.*

- The _____ of Knowing Christ
 - What does the one who walks among the lampstands see?
 - This goes beyond a mere pointing out of differences
 - You don't tolerate evil people
 - You hate the deeds of the immoral Nicolaitans, just as I do

James 4:4 You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. (NLT)

Ephesians 6:12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. (NLT)

_____ vs. _____

- David rejoiced throughout the Scripture; Solomon is mentioned only with adverse comments (Mt 6:28).
- Solomon sought wisdom, yet later became apostate through his foreign wives.
- David simply sought fellowship: "to dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:6).
- Paul, Moses, David all finished well - their desire? To _____ God.
 - Hebrew: (יָדָעַ) Yada: To know intimately; *God knows our hearts*
- He wants devotion, not just doctrine.
- First commandment: Sh'ma: Deut 6:5.
- No thought of self: "If I speak with the tongues of men..." 1 Corinthians 13.
- First love is the abandonment of all - for a love that has abandoned all.

Exodus 20:7 You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. (NLT)

Personal _____

- Ambassadorship, not just vocabulary.
- Devotional life – private worship.
- Commitment, not melodies.
- Relationship, not religion.

We Must Be _____ **Him**

- God has knowledge of you, but have we allowed Him to know us?
 - As a husband knows his wife
- He could tell the Ephesians was that He knew their works
 - Because their works were righteous

But do we only allow the King into the trophy room when He wants in the bedroom?

- The positive wasn't the _____ for the negative
- That is mistaken reasoning that we often use
 - "He didn't turn out well because his parents were too strict."
- Jesus is not stating the positive as a reason for the negative
- The lack of intimacy couldn't be blamed on all the good things that were going on
 - They may have been so busy doing for God, they didn't get to know God. But the negative isn't because of the positive.
- It wasn't their knowledge of Truth that hurt them
- It wasn't because they knew the Truth, it was in spite of their knowledge that they were in trouble.
- They left their first love implies an _____ act, not an accidental one

Jeremiah 2:2 Go and shout this message to Jerusalem. This is what the Lord says: "I remember how eager you were to please me as a young bride long ago, how you loved me and followed me even through the barren wilderness." (NLT)

Where had they started? In the control of the Holy Spirit!

Look at Ephesians passages: A generation earlier they had been commended because of their love, but encouraged especially to grow in love.

Galatians 5:22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! (NLT)

- They were missing that first love of the Holy Spirit
- That _____ that decided their day
- They were missing...
 - The peace that comes when you lie down and sleep at night
 - The joy that comes when you wake in the morning
 - The patience that bears you through hard times
 - The goodness that God would have given had they only kept going
 - Life abundantly, instead they had life that's just pretty good
 - They missed out on the results of faithfulness
 - They could only ask, what mountains would have moved?

What We Try _____

- We say we are willing and desirous to return to the heights
- But we think there is some other way to get there now
- We think it will happen by...
- _____

- Just give it enough time...it will happen
- It will naturally occur
- Problem is...it wasn't natural in the first place

- _____
 - If it's not natural, it's supernatural
 - Yes, but he's already done everything he's going to do on this
 - Maybe a voice, maybe a supernatural influence, visitation, etc.
 - "God we need you to move!" (He already has moved).
- _____
 - I'll just work harder
 - They really didn't need more truth...there was nothing wrong with that
 - It wasn't about WHAT they were doing
 - It was about WHY they were doing it that mattered
 - "Turn back to me and do the works you did at first."
 - It wasn't what they did that mattered, but for what motive, what incentive.

_____ **To** _____

- Remove the lampstand
- Remove the usefulness
- Part of the usefulness of being light is the preservation and protection
- Part of the usefulness of being salt is the preservation and protection
- Their influence would be removed

The Ephesus _____

- Reminder of the Sodom & Gomorrah judgement
- They weren't only lost by their wickedness...
- But by the failure of the _____ within the culture
- Sodom & Gomorrah there isn't 10 righteous people, and so the city was lost
- At Ephesus, how many would have been enough?
- We say, America is being judged
- But if there is judgement, it will begin at the _____ of God

Revelation 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.' (NASB)

Revelation 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." ' (NKJ)

Revelation 2:7 "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God. (NLT)

To those who _____

- Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit...
- And understand what he is saying to the churches.
- To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life...
- In the paradise of God.

Notice that the "Promise to the Overcomer" comes after the "Hear that hath an ear" phrase.

1 John 5:4 For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. **5** And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God. (NLT)

_____ you overcome...

- Eating of the tree of life is a promise of special intimacy with the Lord
- A promise of renewing the fellowship lost before the Fall

"Tree of Life": Myths of the heathen (echos of the tree of life)

- The homa-tree of the Persians, growing at the spring Arduisur, which comes from the throne of God.
- The halpasoma-tree of the Hindus, which furnished the water of immortality.
- The tuba-tree of the Arabs.
- The lotus-tree of the Greeks.
- The tree of Assyria adorned by royal figures and guarded by genii, similar to the cherubim (Ezekiel 47:12).

Conclusion

- Paul's warning in Acts & John's letter(s): Where's their lampstand today?
- Ephesus is now over six miles from the sea, unapproachable by ship
 - What was a major harbor is now a marsh dense with reeds
 - What once was the key city in Asia is now a desolation
 - Nothing is left

Homework: Smyrna - Next Session

- Read Chapters 2 & 3.
- Outline the Letter to Smyrna.
- Contrast the Olivet Discourse according to: Matthew 24 and Luke 21.