**Revelation Bible Study**

10/25/2020

1. Introduction to the 7 Churches in Revelation (chapters 2-3)
   1. The purpose of these letters is for preparation:
      1. For the visions that begin in chapter 4
      2. For repentance
         1. Through these letters the Holy Spirit enables those who hear to repent, to stand in the faith, and to receive the comfort that comes from the promised victory.
   2. These letters are for the church for all time:
      1. The 7 churches symbolize the entire Christian church of all time under the Holy Spirit.
   3. The seven deadly sins the church faces:
      1. Pattern of the sins
         1. Left your first love; idolatry; sexual immorality; deadness of faith/heart; failure to take advantages of the opportunities to serve; luke warm.
            1. The end result………..cast out of Christ’s presence.
         2. These sins are a constant threat to our Christian life and witness.
            1. Godly repentance prepares the heart to receive the message of Revelation.
2. The Church in Ephesus (2:1-7)
   1. Background to the city
      1. Population at the time of 250k
      2. Situated on three major trade routes
      3. False worship life:
         1. The worship of Dianna/Artemis.
         2. Emperor worship
            1. Domitian (81-96) was worshipped as a god. He persecuted Christians.
   2. What did Jesus know about this congregation?
      1. They were very alert to the dangers of false teachers.
      2. They were patiently enduring.
   3. What was wrong?
      1. They left their first love.
         1. In the New Testament to verb “to love” is used 143x. John uses the verb 72x.
         2. The charge against the church in Ephesus includes two things:
            1. The left the source of their love, which is Christ Jesus.

1 John 4:19

For one to leave the redeeming love in Christ Jesus is the chief sin. All other sins evolve from this sin.

* + - * 1. We can also understand this charge as these Christians not loving God above all else.

Matthew 22:37-38

* 1. The promise concerning repentance (v7)
     1. Paradise
        1. See the connection of verse 7 to Rev. 22:1,2.

1. The Church at Smyrna (2:8-11)
   1. What did Jesus know?
      1. Their persecution and the fact they were struggling financially.
         1. They had spiritual wealth.
   2. What was wrong?
      1. They were afraid of suffering.
         1. Suffering/persecution does not occur apart from God’s permissive will.
         2. Jesus gives them comfort and exhortation concerning their suffering. It has a limit (10 days).
            1. Numbers in Revelation are symbolical.

10 also represents completeness.

* 1. “…those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.” (v9).
     1. This phrase references Jews who persecuted Christians.
        1. They had infiltrated the Christian community.
           1. In the Book of Acts we read about certain Jews who worked against the Apostle Paul.

Acts 13:50; 14:2-5, 19; 17:5

* + - 1. The Jews here in Revelation claimed they were the true inherited faith of Moses and the Prophets.
         1. What does the Apostle Paul say? See Galatians 3:1-14
         2. What does Jesus say? See John 8:37-47