

CHANGE?!

Revelation 2-3

If we refuse to change, God may use drastic measures to get our attention

I. CONSIDERATION: Churches called to repent in Revelation 2-3

A. EPHESUS (2:1-7)

1. Positives (2-3, 6)
2. Problem: They left their first love (4)
3. Prescriptions (5a) > Remember, repent, recommit
4. Punishment: I'll remove your candlestick (5b)

B. PERGAMUM (2:12-17)

1. They were committed (13)
2. But, they were careless (14-15)
3. So, they are called out: Repent! (16a)
4. And they are cautioned (16b)

C. SARDIS (3:1-6)

1. Recognition: There is a remnant who will be rewarded (4)
2. Reality (1b-2)
 - a. They were dead but not aware of it!
 - b. They are dreaming and not working (2a)
 - c. They were doing but not completing (2b)
3. Requirements (3a) > Remember, keep, repent
4. Revelation (3b) > If you don't repent, Jesus will come like a thief

D. LAODICEA (3:14-22)

1. Their Accolades: None!
2. Their Attributes (15-17)
 - a. Mediocre deeds (15-16)
 - b. Materialistic delusions (17)
3. The Advice (18-19)
 - Be wise (18), be aware (19a), be zealous (19b) and be repentant (19c)
4. The Action (20)
 - a. Different than the other three churches called to repent
 - b. Hopeful
 - 1) Jesus is knocking ... trying to get their attention
 - 2) Jesus wants renewed fellowship ... removing the door that's between you
 - 3) God is waiting for them to open up!

Over please >

II. APPLICATION - FRBC in 2019

A. THE CONDITIONS

1. A dilemma
 - a. We want congregational change > More people and more giving
 - b. But, we don't want to personally change!
2. The reality
 - a. Things need to be fixed
 - b. But, I'm not part of the problem nor the solution
3. The question
 - a. Will you repent?
 - b. Are you willing to change?
 - c. Will you confront sin, confess sin, correct sin?

B. SOME CONSIDERATIONS

1. We have connection problems
 - If we're not a warm and welcoming congregation younger people especially will not stay
2. We have commitment problems
 - Church attendance irregularities (Heb. 10:25) and spiritual gifts unused (I Cor. 12)
3. We have communication problems
 - Prayerlessness (Eph. 6:18), passionless (Acts 1:8) and poisonous (Gal. 5:14-15)
4. We have coma problems
 - Burying our head in the sand ...Wake up! (See I Thess. 5:16 and Rom. 13:11)
5. We have country-club problems
 - Selfishly coming to get what I want

C. CORRECTIONS: What will change look like?

1. Pondering: Analyze your calendar and your communication
2. Participation
 - a. Things you can do today
 - 1) Ask someone you don't know their name
 - 2) Talk to someone more than 25 years younger or older than you before leaving today
 - 3) Stay in the foyer for 10 minutes after the service
 - 4) Invite someone "new" to join you for lunch
 - b. Things you can do soon > Attend a non-Sunday morning event
3. Proclamation > Sharing the gospel and inviting people to church
4. Prayer > For yourself, our leadership and each other

CONCLUSION: **With God U-Turns are always allowed**

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches"
 - Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29 and 3:6, 13, 22

Revival is possible if we will repent

Feel free to use these notes for personal study.
 If you wish to use them for any other purpose, please seek permission from Pastor Circle.