

ABANDONED

Revelation 2:2-4 and Acts 19:1-20

We must never abandon a foremost love of Jesus

I. THE EPHESIAN CHURCH'S FOUNDING - Acts 19:1-20

- Look at where they were

A. MAKING AN IMPACT ON DISCIPLES (1-7)

- Twelve disciples received more revelation about Christ and became baptized and spirit-filled

B. MAKING AN IMPACT ON THEIR REGION (8-10)

- Bible institute students gave the gospel to all of Asia!

C. MAKING AN IMPACT IN THEIR CITY (11-17)

1. In a place filled with evil spirits (12), exorcists (13) and religious hucksters (14-16)
2. Verse 17 indicates that the citizens were stupefied, and Christ was magnified

D. MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE CONGREGATION (18-20)

1. Believers were transparent (18)
2. Converted magicians burned their books (19)
3. The word of the Lord grew and prevailed (20)

II. THE EPHESIAN CHURCH'S FAITHFULNESS - Revelation 2:2-3

- Look at where they are

A. THEY ARE DILIGENT (2a, 3)

1. Deeds: They are actively doing something
2. Toil: Consistent strenuous and exhausting work
3. Perseverance: They kept going, never quitting
4. Endurance: Bearing up amid difficulty
5. Tirelessness: Not becoming discouraged or weary in well doing - Gal. 6:9

B. THEY WERE DISCERNING (2b)

1. Tolerating no evil men: People with bad character
2. Testing so-called apostles: Those promoting false doctrines

Over please >

III. THE EPHESIAN CHURCH'S FAULTINESS - Revelation 2:4
 - Look at what they left behind

A. THEIR ACTION: They left

1. A collective decision: "They" did this
2. A deliberate decision: They made their choice
3. A significant decision: They will be held responsible for their choice
4. A disastrous decision: Neglecting their care of something
5. A conclusive decision: They're not coming back

B. THE OBJECT: Their first love

1. The Passion: A first love
 - Loving God with all your heart, mind and soul - Matthew 22:37
2. The Problems
 - a. They were cold
 - 1) Their love and devotion to Christ had lost its fervency
 - 2) The lure of sin was affecting them - See Matt. 24:12
 - 3) When our love waffles our work becomes wearisome
 - 4) The bold love of the first-generation Christ-followers was gone
 - b. They were calculating
 - 1) They had determined that if they had diligence and discernment so that wasn't too bad
 - 2) They replaced what was foremost with something secondary
 - 3) Look at I Timothy 1:3-5
 - c. They were complacent
 - 1) Functioning as caretakers and custodians of the faith but not propagators
 - 2) No longer willing to be as distinct and different
 - 3) Retreating into a sound but silent church with only a faint heartbeat

CONCLUSION:

Are we devoted to Jesus or just doing church?

Does a sincere devotion motivate our sound discernment?

Read II Corinthians 5:14-15

- We need to be controlled by the love of Christ
- We must be committed to the Christ who died for us