

Dig Deeper @Home – “Ears that Hear”

Complement to sermon on July 16, 2017 – “Keep Him First”

MEMORIZE – Revelation 22:7

And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book

READ Revelation 2: 1-7

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What is this passage revealing about God and what is it revealing about us as humans?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life? What will that look like?
3. What do we know about Jesus by his own description in verse 1?
4. In verse 2 and 3 Jesus lists positives about the church in Ephesus saying he knows their works. He then lists toil and patient endurance. Toil means to “labor unto weariness” and patient endurance means “to wait on God.” Verse three ends with a praise that “you have not grown weary.” Therefore waiting on God enables us to labor unto weariness without growing weary? What does this look like? How is this reflected in your life?
5. Jesus also commends them for testing those who call themselves apostles and are not. Apparently they have found some to be false. What is an apostle and how do you test one to know if they are false or not? How actively do you test “apostles” of our time? (hint: see also Acts 20: 17-38)
6. What do we know about the church in Ephesus. Read Acts 19: 1-20 and write down observations. In light of this, what is Jesus saying in Revelation 1:4. How are you guilty of this same thing?

Bottom Line – Summarize Revelation 2: 1-7 in your own words

Experiential

Sometimes activities help us to understand and process biblical truths. The one below is a suggestion for how to experience the truths of Revelation 2: 1-7

A Balancing Act

Stand up on both feet and then bring one foot up to your butt like you are stretching. Try to balance on one foot using three techniques. First, focus your eyes on a fixed object, perhaps a light switch or a picture on a wall then lift one foot and try to balance. Now try it again, only this time after you lift your one foot, start swiveling your head looking around in all directions. Now try it a third time, only after you lift your foot close your eyes.

- Which way was it easiest to balance? Why?
- Which way was the hardest? Why?
- How does this relate to Revelation 2: 1-7

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Fix my Eyes - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nm-Bf9gE0gw>

A great song reminding us the most important thing to do ... fix our eyes on Jesus! Or in the words of Revelation, not "abandon the love we had at first."

I Heard the Voice of Jesus – Mennonite Hymnal #231

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Father, keep our love for Jesus first and foremost in all that we do, say and think. May our love for you be the motivation to love and serve those around us.