



April 11, 2010

Celebration Service
Sunday 8:45 am

Pastor David Mitchell

A Church In Need of Love
Revelation 2:1-7

❖ We must accept the full control of Jesus Christ. vs. 1

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: I know...

Colossians 2:19

He holds us, walks among us, knows us.

❖ We will have areas of strength: vs. 2, 3, 6

Toil hard

Perseverance

Intolerant of evil men and false teachers

Acts 19:11-41; 20:28

“Nicolaitans”=

❖ We must acknowledge our area of weakness. vs. 5, 7

But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. vs. 4

Proverbs 4:23

Our weakness: Letting the hard work and a pursuit of truth weaken a loving intimacy with Jesus.

Our remedy:

▪ Remember God and what He has done for you.
Psalm 78:11-16, 40-43; I Chronicles 16:8-12

▪ Repent of all sin.

▪ Return to the deeds you did at first and be held accountable.

▪ Reward to claim. vs. 7

To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.

Digging Deeper

One of the strengths of the Ephesians' church was their perseverance and knowledge of truth. They did not tolerate evil men and would test the apostles to make sure they were righteous and true. We need this more and more today.

We learn more about these areas from Acts 19 and 20 when Paul was ministering in Ephesus. Read the accounts and reflect on the following to make sure you are not vulnerable to demonic attacks, counterfeit faith or false teachers.

Demons are evil spirits with knowledge of our lives. Acts 19:15
I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul...

Demons will to attack the defenseless, fake Christians. Acts 19:15, 16
...but who are you? ...subdued all of them and overpowered them...

Demonic activity thrives in certain circumstances. Sinful deeds attract their activity. Acts 19:18, 19
...those who practiced magic brought their books...

A counterfeit faith is open to attack. Acts 19:13, 14
Matthew 7:20-23

A confession of sin helps avoid attacks. Acts 19:18
II Corinthians 10:3-5. See Digging Deeper for specific wrong beliefs.

Acts 19:18 - Renounce and confess any of the preceding sins, beliefs or activities that offer demonic stronghold in your life. Write them down here to fully confess them.

Acts 19:19 - Repent of those things by turning from them or making plans to remove them from your life. Note how it cost them 50,000 pieces of silver. Luke recorded this to show that it can be costly to turn from the demonic influence which often can be pleasurable and prosperous in this world, even as it is sinful before God. What will you turn from?

Acts 19:20 - Return to the power of the Word. When these areas are removed, note how the Word was "growing mightily and prevailing." Is that true in your life? What reading, studying, meditating and memorizing of the Word are you daily involved with? Our Calvary bookstore offers many tools to help you.

Acts 19:17 - Rejoice in regular worship of Jesus. Note how He was "magnified" which means to glorify and show how great and large He is. Are you faithfully worshipping both privately and corporately on Sundays? Do you arrive early to prepare your heart to "magnify" Jesus? Do you arrive late? Which would the demons prefer? What changes will you make to correct in any of these areas?

The Lies We Believe by Dr. Chris Thurman.

1. You are only as good as what you do. Galatians 3:10, 11
2. If it takes work, we must not be right for each other in marriage. I Corinthians 7:28
3. If I am not happy, you must not be right for me. Hebrews 12:14.
4. God's love must be earned. Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8, 9
5. Because I'm a Christian, God will protect me from pain and suffering. I Peter 4:12, 13 John 16:33; Philippians 1:29
6. All my problems are caused by my sins. John 9:1-3
7. It is my Christian duty to meet all the needs of others. I Corinthians 12:27-31
8. A good Christian does not feel angry, anxious or depressed. John 11:33-35; Mark 14:32-34; Mark 11:15-16 Eph. 4:26
9. God can't use me unless I am spiritually strong. II Corinthians 13:4; 12:9-10; I Corinthians 1:27; 9:22

