

Revelation 2 – 14 February 2019

~Our Defining Issue Part 1 of 2~

Introduction –

Chapter 2-3 Jesus will address specific messages to seven churches in Asia Minor.

Why did He choose these 7 churches? (ANSWER)

They each had specific characteristics or issues that Jesus wanted to highlight.....and so do we!

Example: The Rich Young Ruler in Mark 10

We're going to apply the 3 keys to being victorious regarding the defining issue in our lives. **Here are the 3 keys to our defining issue:**

1. **Study the Source** – Jesus Himself, God Himself is and role-models what we need to be like!
 - a. The attributes said of Himself in chapter 2 & 3, He brought up in chapter 1 already.

2. **Identify the Issue** – forsaking people for tasks, want your own way, want Jesus and..., lazy, emotional start and then fade, power-hungry.
 - a. The issue raised can define your virtue or define your root sin problem.
3. **Rely on the Results** – There’s an eternal result regarding our treatment of the issue!
 - a. There is a positive AND negative outcome possible!

Read Chapter 2 Vs 1-7 - **Ephesus**

1. Vs 1 – The **SOURCE** of their security and rest.
 - a. Read John 10:25-30
 - b. Read Matthew 11:28-30
2. Vs 2-4 – The **ISSUE**: Are you losing sight of love for Christ in the work. (r u a callous Christian?)
 - a. Example: Martha – Luke 10:38-42
 - b. Example: Read Jer 2:13

3. Vs 5-7 – The **RESULTS**: Live with Christ forever or not.
 - a. Vs 5 –
 - i. What is the way back? The way back is always and simply...repent.
 - ii. Belief, think and do what is right!
 - b. Vs 6 –
 - i. Nicolaitans – ruling over the people. The veil was ripped in two.
 - ii. Living w/ Christ means, no middle-man.
 - iii. Not good to be separate from sin, if you're doing it unlovingly and Jesus separates Himself from you.
 - c. Read I John 3:1-3 – We'll be like Him and have an eternal body.
 - i. We'll be physically with Him.
 - d. Vs 7 –
 - i. Overcome how? Rev 2:11 by blood..word..
 - ii. As the tree was in the midst, we'll be in the midst of God.

Read Chapter 2 Vs 8-11 – **Smyrna**

1. 7 churches down thru time.
 - a. Smyrna represents the 2nd and 3rd century church.
 - b. 6 million martyrs during this time.
2. Vs 8 – The **SOURCE** of their resiliency and prosperity.
 - a. Read John 16:33
 - b. Read Gen 41:14-16 – Joseph’s prosperity after resiliency.
3. Vs 9 – The **ISSUE**: Are you shrinking back from serving Christ and gaining His rewards b/c of negative effects in this life? (r u a Christian Coward?)
 - a. Peter warmed himself at the enemy’s fire in a time of cowardness.
 - b. Matt 10:28 – Don’t fear those that kill body
 - c. Read Jer 20:9-10 – Jeremiah couldn’t hold back.

4. Vs 10 – The **RESULTS**: A crown to recognize your endurance and prosperity in Christ.
 - a. This is for enduring hardship and trial.
 - b. This is also for enduring temptation (see James 1:12)
 - c. It's a sin to boast on ourselves, but to think that the Lord will boast about us! Wow!
5. Vs 11 – The second death
 - a. Born once, die twice. Born twice, die once!
 - b. 2nd death: death & hell cast into the L of F.

Read Chapter 2 Vs 12-17 – **Pergamos**

1. Vs 12 – The **SOURCE** of their character and identity.
 - a. Jer 23:26-28 – what is the chaff to the wheat?
 - b. ID – Luke 8:19-21 – Who is my mother and brethren? Those that hear the word and do it.

- c. Character – Luke 11:27-28 – Blessed are they that hear the word and keep it.
 - d. It a character of faith – Rom 10:17
2. Vs 13-15 – The **ISSUE**: Are you willing to identify with all the truths in God’s Word or are you allowing false teaching in your life? (Are you a contaminated Christian?)
- a. Vs 13 – Satan runs this world system, there will be times we’ll have to kick false teaching out of our homes.
 - i. Things from schools.
 - ii. Things from neighborhoods.
 - iii. Things from tv, and the web.
 - b. Vs 14 – Tempt people to add beliefs and behavior, not take away from believing in God. Problem is, they never consider if the new thing is honoring God or not.
 - i. Doctrine of Balaam was the intro of idolatry.

- ii. Churches began to have arts, statues/pictures of Jesus.
 - iii. We can only worship God the way He prescribes, in Spirit and in truth.
 - c. Vs 15 – This is the establishing of a priesthood that God hates. Our ID and character shouldn't be shaped by a man but by God's Word.
3. Vs 16-17 – The **RESULTS**: Your true identity and character will be revealed thru God's Word!
- a. Read Matt 21:42-44 – Jesus, God's Word, will save your broken soul or it'll grind you into powder.
 - b. Vs 17 –
 - i. He'll give you the hidden manna.
 - 1. Fresh, new knowledge of God.
There's always gonna be more to know.
 - ii. Your new identity will be complete when God Himself re-names u on a white stone!

1. White stone of acceptance. (Not black)
2. Read Isa 62:2
3. Adoption is special.

Read Chapter 2 Vs 18-29 - **Thyatira**

4. Vs 18 – The **SOURCE** of justice & ruling authority.
 - a. God will judge even the hidden lusts of the heart – Achan in Josh 7
 - b. We don't have to engage with sinners or sinful things to “help take charge of the matter”
 - i. David wouldn't kill God's anointed king Saul (1 Sam 24)
 - ii. Abraham took Hagar – Thought God needed help creating his ruling legacy.
5. Vs 19-21 – The **ISSUE**: Are you losing sight of right & wrong in your loving faithful service? (are you letting truth mingle with your love? R U a Compromised Christian?)

- a. Specifically – Do you cast out lustful pleasures; either sexual or just lusting for stuff?
 - b. Read about Jezebel in I Kings 16-21
 - i. Known as very loving
 - ii. Known for whoredoms and witchcraft.
 - c. Read Psm 51:1-6 – David’s sin – Bathsheba
 - i. In repenting; “I know You desire truth”.
6. Vs 22-29 – The **RESULTS**: Be made a servant to lust or be made ruler over much.
- a. Psm 32:10 – David’s sin w/ Bathsheba - “Many sorrows shall be to the wicked”.
 - b. Matt 25, Dan 7:22 describe this rule.
 - c. No greater example than Samson
 - i. Phrase used often in Judges, “...the land had rest XX years...”, not used of Samson.
 - ii. His lusts ending his service to the Lord shorter than it should have been.
 - iii. His lusts ended in great trouble rather than a long ruler as judge.

Conclusion –

What's your defining issue?

Study the Source: how did Jesus role-modeled and teach how to believe, think and act.

Identify the Issue: Ask other people how your life is representing and honoring God?

Rely of the Results: God will have His word fulfilled. Do you want to be on the winning side?

NEXT WEEK: ID 'Defining Issue for the 3 churches