

SERMON SERIES: I Love My Church

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Introduction

What do you think “church” means? What are the ways we think of it.

Here is the Greek word for church. Share it with your group and see what insights they have.

1577 *ekklēsia* (from 1537 /*ek*, "out from and to" and 2564 /*kaléō*, "to call") – properly, people called out from the world and to God, the *outcome* being the *Church* (the mystical *body of Christ*) – i.e. the universal (total) body of believers whom God calls *out* from the world and *into* His eternal kingdom.

Seek the Word

Read Revelation 1

- What do you learn about the book of Revelation in this chapter?
- How does John know what he is to write?

(If there are questions in your group about the authority of God's Word and/or how it was written you might take your group to these verses:)

2 Timothy 3:16-17: All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1: 20-21: But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

- What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter?

Read Revelation 2:1-7

- What church is John writing to?
- What commendations or praise does he give them?
- What correction does he give?
- What reward does he mention in verse 7?

Talk About It

- Have your group discuss who is speaking in this chapter?
- Remember John is writing it, but who is “I”?
- What does it mean to leave your first love?
- How do we do this as believers, as the church?
- How does this chapter tell us how to return to it?

In verse 7 we are told “He who has an ear to hear, let him hear.”

- What does it mean to have ears to hear?
- What is the opposite?

Pray in your groups to have ears to hear what Jesus has to share in these letters.

Remember in Scott’s introduction we are learning Who Jesus is and What He wants us to be as the church.