

Eyes on the King: Church of Ephesus

Sermon: Eyes on the King
Speaker: Mike Tatlock
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How is your vision in 2020?

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. Matthew 6:22

Revelation: something that was hidden is now brought to light

*The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The **seven stars are the angels of the seven churches**, and the **seven lampstands are the seven churches**. Revelation 1:20*

*“To the **angel of the church** in Ephesus write: Revelation 2:1*

Revelation 2:1-7

Ephesus was a city in which there existed an ‘everything goes’ mentality. Home to one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world - The Temple of Artemis; whose worship was very sexually focused.

“No one could live in Ephesus without weeping over the immorality which he must see on every side.” -Heraclitus

Wherever there is darkness Jesus wants to bring light.

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people. Revelation 2:2

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Deeds: | They were a SERVING church |
| Hard Work: | They were a SACRIFICIAL church |
| Perseverance: | They were a STEADFAST church |
| Cannot Tolerate Wicked: | They were a SEPARATED church |

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Revelation 2:4
Forsaken: They did not LOSE LOVE, but they LEFT LOVE

Losing our first love is rarely big and dramatic, but more often it is a slow fade and drift

Drifting from Intimate deep connected passionate relationship with Jesus

Our strengths have a darker side which we must be mindful of:

| <u>Strength</u> | <u>The Temptation</u> | <u>The Fade into...</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Deeds | (Serving) over (Seeking) | Results Oriented |
| Hard Work | (Production) over (Presence) | Busy Oriented |
| Perseverance | (Grit) over (Grace) | Offense Oriented |
| No Tolerance | (Piety) over (Proximity) | Ego Oriented |
| Testing | (Knowledge) over (Knowing) | Intellect Oriented |
| Endurance | (Racing) over (Pacing) | Burn Out Oriented |

Consider how far you have fallen! **Repent** and **do the things you did at first...** Revelation 2:5

Realize - Repent - Return

Emotions serve as Amazing Warning Indicators but are Terrible as Navigators

The secret to red hot passionate love is the **connection** to His life and not our **imitation** of His life

...If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. Revelation 2:5

“loveless exhaustion” : They were doing all the right things for all the wrong reasons

Don't let going all out keep you from going all in.
The church that loses its Love will undoubtedly lose its Light

QUESTIONS:

1-For more understanding of the church in Ephesus read Acts 19 and the book of Ephesians

2-The strengths of the church of Ephesus were their

- Deeds - Do you worship your results?
- Hard Work - Do you worship the fullness of your calendar?
- Perseverance - Do you find yourself offended by the lack of grit in others?
- No Tolerance - Do you find yourself less dependent on the proximity of the Holy Spirit?
- Testing - Are you obsessed with knowledge but don't really know Him?
- Endurance - Do you race through life or do you judge the pace of others?

We all fall into these temptations - which do you struggle with more than others?

3-Mike gave a list of keys to connection over imitation in our relationship with God. Which of these is He inviting you to press into this week?

1. Hospitality with the Holy Spirit
2. Vulnerability with my brokenness
3. Humility with my understanding
4. Dependability with my needs
5. Infidelity with my praise
6. Priority with my values

4-Reflect on the ways you may have drifted. Invite God to reveal those to you.

Pray: Jesus, draw me back to my passion for you! Revive me! Rekindle my first love for You! Restore a hunger and craving for more of you! Amen.