

Current Issues

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Introduction

1. Revelation 1:9-11
2. These letters to the seven churches were about their current situation
3. To some of these churches He Christ said to Repent or else!
4. Although these letters were written 2000 years ago could they be current for us today?
5. Let us look, study and see if the issues back then are some we need to be concerned about today.

II Discussion

1. Concerns about the Bible
 1. John was told to write it down Revelation 1:9
 2. There is a blessing to those who read, hear, and do.
 3. Each letter ends the same, "he that hath an ear let him hear." We must give attention to and study to know these things
 4. For one to be a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) there had to be a teacher. Someone had to know what to teach.
 5. We must study 2 Timothy 2:15
 6. Splits come from not studying Hosea 4:6
 7. Ignorance was one reason Christ was crucified Acts 3:17
2. Concerns about opportunities
 1. The church at Philadelphia had a door open to them Revelation 3:8
 2. People are still interested in the soul saving Gospel
 3. We too must look for doors to open 2 Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3
 4. There may be adversaries with these doors 1 Corinthians 16:9
 5. The Word is not bound 2 Timothy 2:9; Isaiah 55:10-11
3. Concerns about Christian living
 1. The church at Ephesus could not live with the evil man Revelation 2:2
 2. The church at Pergamos could not live with those who had the doctrine of Balaam and the Nicolaitans Revelation 2:14-15
 3. Thyatira had those who were like Jezebel Revelation 2:20
 4. WE have compromisers today Matthew 19:9
 5. Worldliness in the church
4. Concerns about loyalty
 1. Ephesus had those who were false apostles Revelation 2:2
 2. Some were wolves in the flock Acts 20:29; Romans 16:17ff
 3. They were encouraged not to faint Revelation 2:3, 13
 4. Bible class is school time or play time?
5. Concerns about the work
 1. Each church Jesus said "I know they works"
 2. Thyatira had more works than at the first Revelation 2:19
 3. Ephesus was encouraged to work harder Revelation 2:5
 4. I Corinthians 15:58
 5. John 9:4
 6. Sardis was a dead church Revelation 3:1
6. Concerns about love
 1. Thyatira was known for her love Revelation 2:19
 2. Ephesus left her first love Revelation 2:4
 3. John 14:15, 23
 4. John 13:34-35
7. Concerns about holding fast
 1. Thyatira was told to hold fast Revelation 2:25

2. We give up in too many ways
 1. Sin in someone's life, we quit
 2. We get old, we give up
 3. We might slip out into the world Revelation 2:10

III Conclusion

1. Christ still cares today 1 Peter 5:7
2. He wrote to those in the church are you in the church today?
3. You can be in the church today!

Source sermon preached 1991