

Where Is the Love

Revelation 2:1-5

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I. Introduction

A. There is a blessing attached to the reading, hearing and keeping the words to the Book of Revelation. It is the only book with such a blessing attached, so there must be something important in this book.

- Genesis – Book of Beginnings
- Exodus – Book of Deliverance
- Deuteronomy – Book of the Law
- Psalms – Book of Poetry
- Proverbs – Book of Wisdom
- Isaiah – Book of Prophecy
- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – Biographies of Christ

B. John has been exiled on Patmos for preaching the gospel. Yet God uses him to write the Book of Revelation.

Note: Even in your exile here in prison God can find you and shower favor on you and use you.

C. John is instructed to write a letter to the church at Ephesus. This letter contains three main parts that is relevant today.

II. Compliment to the Church (vv 2-3)

The resurrected Christ knew what was going on in this church. That is good news that we serve an all-knowing Christ. He knows what is going on in our lives.

A. Good Deeds – The Ephesian church was hard working and ministry minded. They had all the ministry programs of in-reach, out-reach, etc.

Illustration: Learning to play tennis.

B. Good Doctrine – Some people came to the church claiming to be apostles but the Ephesians were able to compare their claims to scripture and found they were in error.

Illustration: Being able to recognize counterfeit money.

C. Good Dedication – During this time the church was under persecution and yet the Lord had found them faithful. The Lord said they were patient, had persevered and not become weary.

II. Complaint Against the Church (v 4)

A. There was only one complaint that Christ had against this church but it was so important that it was mentioned first of the seven letters. The Ephesian church and left their first love.

B. The greatest commandment is to love God (Matt. 22:37-38)

Story: Breaking up with Carlette Phillips.

IV. Correction for the Church (v 5)

A. Remember what you lost.

- Excitement – When you are in love just the mention of that person's name brings excitement and enthusiasm. Do you still get excited about the name of Jesus?
- Encounters – When you are in love you plan those special encounters together like a movie, dinner or walk in the park. When was the last time you had a special encounter with Jesus?
- Exhibition – When you are in love you don't mind having an open display of affection. You show your love by holding hands, kissing or words of love. When was the last time you showed Jesus that you loved Him?

B. Repent