



GABRIEL RUHL | SUNDAY MORNING | DECEMBER 31, 2017

“Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name’s sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”
(Revelation 2:1-5)

INTRODUCTION _____

1. The _____ for This Church

A. They Were a _____ Church

“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;” (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

Quote: “The early church was marked by missionary and evangelistic zeal as seen in the house-to-house witness for Christ, the missionary journeys of Paul, the fervent witness of men and women like Stephen, Philip, Ananias, Barnabas, Priscilla and Aquila, etc... The church at Ephesus was a veritable beehive of Holy Spirit directed activity.”—**Lehman Strauss’ Commentary on Revelation**

Quote: “I care not where I go or how I live or what I endure so that I may save souls. When I sleep, I dream of them; when I awake, they are first in my thoughts.”

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:9-10)

B. They Were a _____ Church

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, to see whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” (Matthew 7:15)

“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.” (Acts 20:29-30)

Quote: “A worldly church cannot and will not reach the world.” —**R. Kent Hughes**

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” (Jude 3)

C. They Were a _____ Church

Quote: “The men and women who have changed the world are the men and women who the world could not change.”

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

2. The _____ of This Church

A. A Decline in Their _____

“Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,” (Ephesians 1:15)

“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead.” (2 Corinthians 5:14)

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-2)

“Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.” (Ephesians 6:24)

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” (Matthew 24:12)

“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica;” (2 Timothy 4:10)

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15-16)

B. A Diminishing of Their _____

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” (John 13:34)

Quote: “In the midst of a generation screaming for answers, Christians are stuttering.”—**Howard Hendricks**

3. The _____ for This Church

A. _____

“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; 10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.” (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

“And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!” (Luke 15:17)

“Remember his marvelous works that He hath done; His wonders and the judgments of His mouth.” (Psalm 105:5)

“I remember the days of old; I meditate on all they works; I muse on the works of thy hands. (Psalm 143:5)

B. _____

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.” (Proverbs 21:2)

“Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.” (2 Corinthians 7:9-10)

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” (James 4:8)

C. _____

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:” (Colossians 2:6)

“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.” (Acts 6:4)

CONCLUSION _____

“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.” (Psalm 51:12)

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:35)

