

REVELATION

A Message to God's Church

Week 6: Revelation 2:18 – 29

OPENING QUESTIONS

Read through Revelation 2:18 – 29 aloud together as a group. In your initial reading, what pops out at you? Discuss. Why is this significant to you?

LOVE, FAITH, SERVICE, AND PATIENT ENDURANCE

'I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.' – Jesus (Revelation 2:19)

Is “love” something you feel or do? Can you feel without doing and still call it love? Can you do without feeling and still call it love?

What is “faith?” An attitude? A belief? A feeling?

Is our “service” to each other, or service to the world? Where is the priority?

How are we doing in the discipline of “perseverance?”

How do you think God would rate us in these four areas, on a scale of one to ten? How could we do better in our weakest area and our strongest area?

SIN OF IDOLATRY

Martin Luther's Larger Catechism reflects on the First Commandment:

“You are to have no other gods.”

That is, you are to regard me alone as your God. What does this mean, and how is it to be understood? What does “to have a god” mean, or what is God?

Answer: A “god” is the term for that to which we are to look for all good and in which we are to find refuge in all need. Therefore, to have a god is nothing else than to trust and believe in that one with your whole heart. As I have often said, it is the trust and faith of the heart alone that make both God and an idol.

If your faith and trust are right, then your God is the true one. Conversely, where your trust is false and wrong, there you do not have the true God. For these two belong together, faith and God. Anything on which your heart relies and depends, I say, that is really your God.

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On Sunday Paul Vroom said this about idolatry,

It is not just a sin relegated to the unenlightened pagans in the jungles who are yet to experience the benefit of the Gospel. It is an ever-present sin that is everywhere present. It is the common vulnerability of people like us: unsuspecting evangelicals who attend gospel-preaching churches every Sunday. Evangelicals can be idolaters.

Who/what are the idols of our day?

Can you identify where the sin of idolatry is prevalent in your life (personal, family, work, church)? Share with the group.

If you attended the Ash Wednesday worship service, you heard Nathan or Paul say "Consider yourself dead to sin and alive in Jesus Christ" when you received the ashes. How can this Missional Community help you put to put this sin(s) of idolatry to death so that you may come more fully alive in Jesus Christ?

HOLDING FAST

What does it mean to "hold fast" (2:25)? Are your Missional Community members holding fast to what they possess? What are you doing to ensure that each member perseveres until Jesus comes?

CLOSING QUESTION

So, what are we, as individuals and as a Missional Community, going to do with this section of Scripture? What is God calling us to be? What is God calling us to do?