

Our Bible reading for today – **Revelation 1:1-11**

“Your Opinion Matters!”

If you are like me, by the time elections are over you are getting sick and tired of the rhetoric, the candidates and nastiness of the negative political attack ads. They want your approving vote at the polls on Election Day. But for me too often I sometimes find myself voting for the candidate I least disapprove of. But I vote, and I hope you do too. It’s a privilege and a treasured right. Your opinion matters.

Do you ever get one of those phone calls from a party headquarters, a candidate or a polling agency? They assure you that they really want your opinion for their statistical analysis of the issues. The call may be time consuming at an inconvenient time, but it’s probably a good idea to take the few minutes to respond to their questions, because your opinion matters. You may have received a questionnaire in your mail from a party or candidate asking you your opinion on the current issues, and then realize it is only a disgusting fund raiser.

What do you think of your church? That’s important. Our church is “congregational” in the sense that we have meetings periodically for the members to vote on officers, budgets, calling pastors, building buildings, and other major issues. One Christian leader who is against that was quoted as saying that those congregational meetings are unnecessary because every church goes every week by his presence and giving whether he likes his church or not. Once as we were holding a membership class for people wanting to join our church, one lady commented about our church, that she thought of it as “*healthy*”. I like that.

But as Christ looks at the church, what does He think? One of my favorite commentary books about Revelation 2 and 3 is entitled, “*What Christ Thinks of the Church*”. It seems to me that that is a good summation of the seven letters to the seven churches which are contained in those chapters. Your opinion of your church matters. But more important by far is what Christ thinks of your church.

In my years of ministry, as I have been a participant and an observer of the church, I have thought of Christ and wonder if He is smiling or frowning. I’m afraid that sometimes I can imagine Him angry, weeping or nauseated by what He sees. His opinion matters.

Individually, it should be important to each of us what Christ thinks of us. An old song written by B. B. McKinney expressed this in its thought-provoking chorus:

*“I am satisfied, I am satisfied;
I am satisfied with Jesus.
But the question comes to me,
As I think of Calvary,
Is my Master satisfied with me?”*

A good question! Your opinion matters. But His opinion matters more. We might feel that we don’t have much control on the directions of our church, and what Christ thinks of it. But we do have a lot of say about our own lives, as to whether we live to please Him.