

Theme	The Ready Bride of Christ
Topic	The Church in Ephesus
Speaker	SP Daniel Foo
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Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: To Rediscover our First Love

This is the first of the series of specific messages directed towards the messianic congregations. The messages are lessons typifying end-time church and they contain encouragements and warnings. The seven churches are Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

City

City of Ephesus was a major commercial center and seaport in Asia Minor. It was known for sexual immorality and occult practices. It was also known to be the guardian of the temple of Artemis. The major stronghold of the city was that it possessed the spirit of religion. See Acts 19 for a more detailed account of the state of the city in Paul's time.

Christ Jesus

Jesus was described as He who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. This reveals several attributes and characteristics of Christ. Colossians 1:17 says that in Him all things hold together. His right hand signifies protection, security (Psalms 17:7, Psalms 60:5), fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11), power and blessings. Deuteronomy 23:14 mentions how God walked among His people to protect them. Do you experience His presence in church during time of worship?

Commendation

The Church of Ephesus was commended for:

1. Being diligent, steadfast and persevering in the Lord
2. Loving righteousness and holiness
3. Being discerning

Some questions to ponder: Are we as a church pre-occupied with works instead of the person whom we serve? Do we have the approval of God? Do we love righteousness and holiness to the point of being legalistic? Are we eating still drinking milk and not partaking solid food? Do we discern what we read and hear from books, sermons, online materials and other Christian resources?

Complaint

The Church of Ephesus was reprimanded for having left their first love. They had failed to experience and abide in the love of God and reverted to their carnal-corrupt-natural love which was manifested in performance-based faith and religious practices.

Counsel and Warning

The word of God reminds us to repent and to do the first works. Ask ourselves, have we left our first love behind? Where have we fallen? Which incident, event or hurt caused us to begin to move away from the Lord? Have we become like what 2 Timothy 3:5 describes as having the form of godliness but denying its power?

What first works can we do? Connect with God and abide in Him always through partaking the word of God and time of praise and worship. Live in continual surrender to know His will and in total dependency on the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

Have we left our first love behind? Is our relationship with God turning cold and dull? Repent now and do the first works!

Questions

1. a. What were the commendations given to the Church of Ephesus? How had the Church fallen short?
b. What would God say if He is to write a letter to you/your cell/BBTC/Church in Singapore?

(Fill In Answer Here)

2. a. What does it really mean to leave our first love behind?
b. Recall an incident, time, event or experience that brought you away from the Lord. How did you rediscover your first love?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3. Share about the last time you spent time abiding in God's presence? What did God impress upon you?

(Fill In Answer Here)
