

REVELATION 2 AND 3 - with Q's for reflection

Series 'The future has already begun' #3 - IBC Eindhoven, 12 January 2020

1. IDENTITY OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

1. Representing all churches for all times
 - Letters to 7 churches: Pauline + Revelation (also 22:16)
2. Gospel always for a people
 - Life of faith highly personal, never individual
 - Revelation: first Christ - then 7 churches - then the word of God for the churches
3. Each church represents 'a bit of' Christ
 - As revealed in Revelation 1:13-18
4. We cannot have Christ apart from church
 - Church is Body of Christ: 1 Corinthians 12:27

Read Revelation 1:13-18 and realise how Christ is communicated to the churches. What does this mean - how may we respond?

2. BUILD YOUR CHURCH LORD

1. AFFIRMATION
 - I know...
 - Christ walking among the lampstands - 1:13
2. CORRECTION
 - I have this against you...
 - Training in 7 areas: to love, to suffer, to tell the truth, to be holy, to be authentic, to be in mission, to worship
 - Churches are not show rooms but living rooms - adjust your expectations
3. PROMISE
 - To him who overcomes I will give...
 - Not as a reward but as destiny which completes life begun in faith
 - Eternal life presented in a variety of images
 - Lampstands

AFFIRMATION: Read in Revelation 2 and 3 what the Lord knows about each church. What does this reveal about our Lord's relationship with the local church?

CORRECTION: Reading the 7 letters, what contents is relevant for IBC Eindhoven in 2020? Share, talk and pray about this

PROMISE: In what way are the promises already effective in our daily lives?

3. HEAR - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches

1. Called to respond
 - Bible teaches that man is free and responsible
2. Parable of the sower
 - FIRST in Matthew 13, Mark 4 and Luke 8
3. Church called to discern mind of Christ
 - 1 Corinthians 14:29 and 1 Thessalonians 5:21

What can we do to make the seed fall into fertile ground? Reflect on this also from the perspective of the church community - Read 1 Corinthians 3:16 and share your thoughts on the local church as the temple of the Holy Spirit. NOTE: the 'you' in the original Greek is in plural, 'temple' is in singular.