

SERMON OUTLINE

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How to Commit to God

August 9, 2009

I. Introduction

- A. Starting something is easy, the challenge is in finishing it
- B. Let's look at the instruction Jesus gives to the seven churches of Asia regarding commitment

II. Keys to Commitment

- A. Remember the purpose of the truth: Revelation 2:1-5
 - 1. Hard working, persevering, upholding the truth... We might define them as "sound" – But they left their first love
 - 2. 1 Timothy 1:5 - the goal of our instruction is love...
- B. See the light at the end of the tunnel: Revelation 2:8-10
 - 1. Can you imagine Jesus telling you this??? Suffering?? Test??
 - 2. Ten days: Not too long!!! 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- C. Demonstrate a love for the souls of others: Revelation 2:12-16
 - 1. Imagine someone taken from our number – killed!!
 - a. Result? Let's just get along – accept different doctrinal differences... even though they may cause others to sin.
 - b. Balaam: O.T. prophet – Found a way around the truth.
 - 2. Extremes:
 - a. Ephesus: Truth was destroying others (weapon)
 - b. Pergamum: Acceptance was keeping others in lost state.
- D. Do not compromise, hold to the standard: Revelation 2:18-20
 - 1. Jezebel – had one thing on her mind, get what you want at anyone else's price (Ahab & Naboth's vineyard).
 - 2. We weigh things every day – work v. family | patience v. action | rebuke v. forgiveness – what is the right way to go???
- E. See the work ahead, don't rely on past accomplishments: Rev 3:1-3
 - 1. They had a reputation – alive – great past deeds???
 - 2. Hebrews 10:32-35 – don't throw it away
- F. Allow God to work through you, don't minimize your role: Revelation 3:7-8
 - 1. Jesus opens the door, He gives opportunity. They had "little power" – not great in own or others' eyes
 - 2. Pray for opportunities and see, be a witness (John 9)

III. Decide: Don't be middle of the road - Revelation 3:14-16