

Sunday, February 5, 2023 - "Revelation - Week 4 - God's Invitations" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Revelation 2:18-3:6, Hebrews 12:7-8, Psalm 139:23-24, Matthew 15:7-9

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- What if we welcomed/embraced God's Rebuke (Hebrews 12:7-8)...rebukes are invitations
- Church in Thyatira (not the biggest, most important city...no less important spiritually)
 - Their works were markers of faithful followers of Jesus
 - Works = deeds and actions, seizing opportunities to serve others
 - Love = preferring one another (agape, physical and emotional hospitality)
 - Faith = deep confidence in what is not seen
 - Service = literally means to wait a table, serving each other
 - Endurance = standing true in what is true and right
 - Their latter works exceed their earlier ones...what our christian journey should look like (growth, reflect Jesus more)
- "But I have this against you...doesn't feel like an invitation but Jesus wants more for us, our full potential
- Psalm 139:23-24
 - Prayer: "Father, I know you love me and you want your best for me. Is there anything you have against me?"
 - We need to see ourselves from God's perspective. His opinion is the only one that truly matters
 - Our inherent nature is to glorify ourselves and vilify others...other people and God
- There was a tumor growing in Thyatira...Jezebel encouraging sexual immorality and idol worship
 - She was permitted to lead people astray (a sinner in the midst wasn't the problem...but her influence over others unchecked)
 - The other leaders lacked the courage to stand against here
 - The church in Ephesus stood for what's right but lacked love, Thyatira had love but didn't call out what was right
 - Satan wants to destroy the church from outside AND inside
- God sees, he knows what's going on
 - Eyes like flames of fire
 - Sees through everything, sees the heart, no secret thoughts, desires, sins, dreams
- v26: I will give you authority over nations
 - More about heaven coming to us than escaping to somewhere else
 - We will share in his glory...morning star = Jesus
- Church in Sardis
 - I see your religious scurrying...to look spiritual in the eyes of others
 - The sin of hypocrisy...to be seen as spiritual but actually be anything but
 - Christian religion without love for God and people is ALWAYS hypocrisy (Matthew 15:7-9)
 - Easy to get into routine/go through the motions → hypocrisy and religious scurrying
 - Spiritual disciplines are not the end they are a means to an end
- In the midst of harsh rebuke there is a loving God
 - Wake up, turn back to Jesus
 - He can bring life where there is death
 - Remember what you received: Jesus, Holy Spirit, first love

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What would it look like for you to welcome God's rebuke?
2. How are you doing living out the markers of a true follower of Jesus: works, love, faith, service, and endurance?
3. How does your life reflect Jesus more now than it did in the past?
4. When was a time that you were caught up in "religious scurrying"? What did God teach you?
5. How do you utilize spiritual disciplines as a means to an end?
6. How is God calling you to remember what you received from him?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

Songs from the weekend:

[Joy of the Lord - *Grace Worship*] - [Reason to Praise - *Cory Asbury*] - [Made A Way - *Travis Greene*] - [Promises - *Maverick City*]