

“A Loveless Church”

Revelation 2:1-7; Ephesians 1:3-15; 1John 2:9-18 and 4:11

I. Introduction (*some characteristics of the apocalyptic genre*)

The message of Revelation is not unlike all the rest of the Bible – relevant for the church of *our* day precisely because it was relevant for God’s people *when it was originally given*. In drama known as apocalyptic every _____ scene, player, creature, event, object, etc. has its _____ counterpart.

II. The Church in Ephesus (Rev 2.1-7; Eph. 1.13-15; Heb. 2.1-3; Acts 20.25-32)

1. Doctrinal

2. Diligent, hard working

3. Persevering

4. Loveless

“The Ephesians stand before us in the pathway of the world, at the door by which the West visited the East, and from the East looked out upon the West as a dignified people worthy of their great position, who had lived through a noble history in the past, and were on the whole not unworthy of it in the present, who maintained their high tradition—and yet one thing was lacking, the power of loving and of making themselves loved. A common hatred is a poor and ephemeral ground of unanimity”

-- W. M. Ramsay

III. Application

The church in Spokane must listen to what she hears and must avoid two dangers:

1. Prioritizing Doctrinal Form over Content

2. Non-discerning Judgment