

Revelation 2:1-7 "Truth and Love"

Read Revelation 2:1-7

Darryl Johnson speaks of these letters being the marrying together of two types of communication that would have been well known to the original readers. The first was a prophetic oracle – “thus saith the Lord”. The second was a royal edict sent from a Roman Governor to local municipalities – “I know this about you”. The letters are written to churches. At this time a church was not a religious building, instead it signified a gathering of citizens of the city who were conducting the business of the city. These letters then are the words of the true Emperor and God inviting his people to conduct the business of the city of God in the city that they live in.

1. Do you see our life as church in these terms? Why or why not?
2. Where do we need to grow to align ourselves to this picture of what it means to be church?

Each of these letters will tell us something of what it means to be a community that gathers for the sake of the city it lives in. By what Jesus praises in them – I know this about you – and what Jesus critiques in the them – but I have this against you – will tell us what it means to be this kind of community.

3. (vs. 2, 6) Jesus praises them for their holding onto orthodoxy, their holding onto the truth of the person and work of Jesus in the midst of the cultural idolatries of their day. What are some of the cultural idolatries of our day?
4. What would it look like to remain faithful to Jesus and not compromise with the cultural idolatries of our day?
5. (vs. 3) Jesus acknowledges what it has cost them to remain faithful in Ephesus. What would it cost us to remain faithful in Toronto?
6. (vs. 4) Jesus critiques them for being a community of truth without love. What are the symptoms of a community of truth without love? Do you see this in churches that you know? In our church?
7. If we see this in ourselves John invites us to remember from where we have fallen, repent, and return to the works we did at first. How does

remembering shape our repenting and our returning to the works we did at first?