

First Love

Billy Graham

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Revelation 2-3.

B. A major portion of revelation is devoted to the Seven Churches of Revelation.

II. The church at Ephesus left their first love.

A. Love lies in the power of the will.

B. They left the glow, thrill and joy of their first love.

C. The only place where the intensity of love with Christ is seen is in new converts.

D. If you have lost your first love, you need to repent.

III. The church at Smyrna represents the problem of suffering.

A. Today martyrdom is prevalent.

B. The church will soon be suffering more.

C. Be faithful.

IV. The church at Pergamum represents doctrinal compromise.

A. The great need of evangelicals today is to clear up what is the world.

B. The world system is always antagonistic to Christ.

C. Do not compromise doctrinally.

V. The church at Thyatira represents moral compromise.

A. Doctrinal compromise always leads to moral compromise.

B. There are universal morals.

C. Sex outside of marriage is wrong.

VI. The church at Sardis represents spiritual deadness.

A. The church is to wake up.

B. We are to repent lest He withdraws His Spirit.

VII. The church at Philadelphia represents the problem of evangelism.

- A. There is a door open for evangelism that no man can shut.
- B. God is at work in the world.
- C. God has His witnesses all over.

VIII. The church at Laodicea represents the problem of complacency.

- A. They were a rich church.
- B. They did not even know they were in need.

IX. Jesus is the last image at the door knocking and electing men.

- A. The Holy Spirit breaks out of what we could possibly organize.
- B. God is sovereign and the Spirit is on the loose.

Application questions

1. How could you summarize the problems that Revelation highlights concerning the church?

2. Which church do you find yourself most like? Explain.

3. How does Jesus' knocking on the door address your condition from question two? Whose work is the change of the church and what is your responsibility in it?
