

Revelation 2:6-7

Last week we saw what John wrote to the church at Ephesus about what God found was a fault with the church and the people there. Here in verse 6 he speaks one time about something they were doing right.

1. You hate the deeds of the Nicolatians – vs. 6 – It is interesting that God told this church what they were doing right and then what they were doing wrong, and then followed up with an encouraging, “Oh yeah, one more thing you are doing right.” Isn’t it just like God to give you the bad news and then say something nice? We need to look at who the Nicolatians really were.
 - a. The Nicolatians – there are several ideas on who these folks really were. All have some truth and history to back up the idea, but only one really makes sense and fully explains the comment here in this passage and later to another church. The Nicolatians were a group that followed a man named Nicolas. They were a sect that believed some very non-biblical things.
 - b. Deeds - They believed in free love and the exclusivity of the spiritual leaders. They believed much like folks do today that to “truly understand sin, you have to do it.” Really? They even said that such sins committed for that purpose did not really “touch” them or hold them guilty of it. Can you imagine that being taught in church? These folks were really a cult and the church at Ephesus was being congratulated for not buying into the lie. In fact it says they “hated the deeds the Nicolatians did.”
 - c. Hate – What really is hate? What does it mean to hate something or someone? How does that compute with our Christian personality of “Love one another, and love your neighbor?” Hate is the opposite of love. It is the other side of that emotion. So if you hate something, you don’t do it. In fact you would never consider doing it. You will do everything in your power and strength to avoid it. Just as when you love someone, you do everything you can to be with that person, even manipulate people and circumstances to ensure that happens. When you hate someone or something, you do everything you can to NOT be near or with that someone.
 - d. I also hate – What a great thing to have God say to this church. Wouldn’t it be great if God said that He liked something you did because it was the same with Him? We all like it when someone agrees with us. Don’t we like it when we make a comment and the group all say, “Yep, I agree with you. You are right!!” God just did that to this church. He said He agreed and that they were right!!

2. He who has an ear – vs. 7 – This is not a rhetorical statement. It was on purpose. John was saying to everyone who heard the reading of this letter, that if they were really believers and had the spirit of God in them, then they had ‘spiritual ears’ and could understand that spiritual nature of what God was saying to the church.
- a. *You see, not everyone who hears the gospel will understand it* - Only believers can understand some of the principles God has in His Word. John 8:47 *Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."* If you are not hearing God speak, ask yourself why? Don't let this be you.
 - b. *What do you hear?* - It is so simple we often miss it. It is the Spirit that is talking to the church. Have you ever heard the Spirit speak to you? Are you always in a mind set to listen so you can hear? If you are so busy that you can't hear you just may miss it. Be sure you can hear what the Holy Spirit is saying and then obey the words you hear. It is one thing to listen, hear, and then ignore what you just heard. How many have you mother say that very thing. It is not good enough to listen and hear, but John says we have to do something.
 - c. *To him who overcomes* – What do we need to overcome and who are they who do? The overcomers are those who have heard the spirit by putting everything else out of first place and allowed God to speak; they have listened and obeyed the Word of God. They are the true believers.
 - d. *What they get* – If we overcome, the spirit says that God will grant them to eat of the Tree of Life, that is eternal security. What a great promise! We will be given the Tree of Life to eat and Paradise to eat it in.