

WCBC WORSHIP SERVICE - AUGUST 6, 2017

TOPIC: THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION!

Sermon 1: *"Ephesus: The Backsliding Church!"*

TEXT: Revelation 2:1-7

INTRO: The City Of Ephesus!

I. THE MEANING OF BACKSLIDING:

1. Turning away of the heart from God - I Kings 11:1-10
- *2. Coldness of love to God - Revelation 2:4

II. THE CAUSES OF BACKSLIDING: v. 4 cf. vv. 2-3, 6

Note: The root cause of their backsliding is their coldness of love to God - v.4

1. Their labor and diligence for God had become cold - v.2
 - A. They had allowed evil men to do their wicked deeds - v.2 cf. v.6
 - Nicolaitans!
 - B. They had listened to false teachers - v.2 cf. Acts 19:23-28
 - *Note: We Christians should be active defenders of the faith! - Jude 3; Galatians 1:6-8
 - Antidote To Coldness Of Labor/Diligence For God!

2. They had become impatient - vv.2a, 3
 - Note: They had not persevered, and had fainted in their troubles - v.3
 - Antidote To Impatience In Troubles!

III. THE COMMAND TO BACKSLIDERS: v. 5

1. "Remember" - v.5a
2. "Repent" - v.5b

IV. THE PROMISE TO BACKSLIDERS: Jer. 3:22a

1. The door is ALWAYS open for their return - v. 22a cf. Luke 15:11-32
2. God is ALWAYS willing to forgive! - v. 22a

CONCLUSION: Collie Keeps Eight-Year Vigil!

Hymn Writer Lose Joy Of Salvation!

Robert Robinson, author of the hymn, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (p. 271, *Hymnody*), lost the happy communion with the Saviour he had once enjoyed; and in his declining years, he wandered into the byways of sin. As a result, he became deeply troubled in spirit. Hoping to relieve his mind, he decided to travel.

In the course of his journeys, he became acquainted with a young woman on spiritual matters; and so she asked him what he thought of a hymn she had just been reading. To his great surprise, he found it to be none other than his own composition. He tried to avoid her question, but she continued to press him for a response.

Suddenly, he began to weep. With tears streaming down his cheeks, he said, "I am the man who wrote that hymn many years ago. I'd give anything to experience again the joy I knew then!"

Although greatly surprised, she reassured him that the "streams of mercy" mentioned in his song still flowed. Mr. Robinson was deeply touched. Turning his "wandering heart" to the Lord, he was restored to full fellowship!-H. G. Bosch

Verse For Today

"Return, you faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding!" - Jeremiah 3:22a

Food For Thought

"The backslider likes the preaching that wouldn't hit the side of a house, while the real disciple is delighted when truth brings him to his knees!" - Billy Sunday

