



THE TABERNACLE SERMON NOTES

SCRIPTURE SUMMARY

In the coming weeks, we will be discussing the seven letters found in Revelation chapters 2 & 3. It is important to emphasize that these were real letters to real churches. Each letter had a direct message to each individual church. Each letter (for the most part) contains a praise, a criticism, an instruction and a promise. As we look at the first four churches, we will break these down and apply them to ourselves and our church. Obedience to God's word and disobedience are the same today as they were 2000 years ago.

Hold Fast

Ephesus - Return to your first love

Smyrna - Remain steadfast

Pergamum - Repent

Thyatira - Judgement is coming so hold fast to the faith

Hold Fast

Weekly Passage

Revelation 2:1-29

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Supporting Scriptures

- Ephesians
- Psalm 51:10
- 2 Timothy 1:13

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Contextual Questions

- What is the praise, criticism, instruction and promise to the churches?
- Why does this structure matter and what can it teach us about grace with others?
- How would these churches have understood the phrase 'hold fast'? (Hint: military term)

SMALL GROUP NOTES

GROUND RULES

What's said in a group stays in the group.

Vulnerability is necessary to build relationships that allow us to confess sin. That doesn't happen without a level of confidentiality. Another's confession is not dinner conversation.

Hold yourself and others accountable.

As iron sharpens iron, one man sharpens another. We allow the Holy Spirit to be the Holy Spirit, but we hold each other accountable to pursue righteousness. To do this we must first examine ourselves.

Show Me.

We wrestle with the Word. Often we see things differently. We call these small rocks, but God's Word always has the final say.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Application Questions

- What might it look like to be "luke warm" for Christ? Have you ever been there?
- What sin in your life are you tolerating like the churches of Pergamum and Thyatira?
- Are you prepared to let God use you even if it costs you? Will you let Him use your suffering?
- How are we to live in light of the promises to the four churches?

CHALLENGE:

What am I going to do now?

- Commit to reading ahead each week. Next week's passage is Revelation 3:1-22.
- Pray for an opportunity to hold fast and share it next meeting. (Leaders set a reminder)

NOTES: