

B.O.S.S. Study Guide - Week of April 12, 2010
Studies in the Book of Revelation

For the rest of the spring we want to take a careful look at the 7 churches of Revelation. We want to get a good idea what the Lord found to be admirable and what He condemned, what He asked to be changed and what He asked to continue. The main reason we want to take careful note of this, is because each week we want to compare their report card with ours and as a church, discuss what is admirable, what is condemned, what needs to change and what needs to continue. At the end of each study I would like someone in the group to fill out one study guide and return it to the church office - I really want to know what your groups think about our church body. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated.

List out loud everything you know about the city, the church, the report card received from the Lord to the church at Ephesus as you read Revelation 2:1-7 and consider your Sunday outline.

What were they doing well?

Much of the encouragement came from the fact that they were laboring patiently for the Lord. **Go around the room and share what each of you is doing in laboring for the Lord throughout the ministries of MLC** - not only do we want to recognize these, we also want to appreciate each others service for the Lord. Apparently the Lord does, so why wouldn't we. **Thank each other for your service.**

How well do we do those exact same things as the church at Ephesus?

What had they departed from?

How well do we demonstrate love for God and for others in our body?

What do we need to be reminded of?

What do we need to repent of?

What do we need to start doing again?

This church is being asked to balance Love, their first; with Hatred of Evil (evil doers).
How do we walk that line? How do you love and hate at the same time?

“MLC exists as a conduit of the transforming (life changing) grace of God, by making disciples of Jesus and responsible church members.” This is our purpose statement.
How effective are we at fulfilling it?

We believe that we accomplish this purpose through, worship, discipleship, fellowship, service, and evangelism.

On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being very effective, 1 being ineffective), score the following as they relate to the ministries of MLC.

Evangelism -
Service -
Fellowship -
Discipleship -
Worship -

As individuals and as a study group how would you be involved in the areas you see to be least effective?

I think that the significance in Jesus’ description of Himself in verse 1 is this;
“I hold the stars” - I have the authority to call your behavior into question. You are my body, you love because I first loved you, now I am commanding you to love one another, for by this all men will know that you are mine. John 13:34,35

“I walk among the lamp stands... I will remove your lamp”, vs. 5b - If you continue in this direction you will lose your effectiveness; “I am the vine and you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

Include in your prayer time:

- 1) Time to pray about MLC’s effectiveness in the ministries we have considered.
- 2) Pray for God’s grace, guidance and His resources to meet the deficiencies we see exist.
- 3) Thank Him for our success and blessings.