



Word Notes: Sunday 13th January 2019

CSI First Love

Key Text: Rev 1:9-20 & 2:1-7

You may have seen the “Mystery Worshipper” page and reports on shipoffools.com where visitors attend church services incognito then rate them on a number of criteria. What would a report on NCC look like? Even more important – what would Jesus report if he were to visit? In the early part of the Revelation of St John that’s exactly what happens and Jesus commands John to write his report to 7 churches. These were not the only churches around and it’s generally accepted that by writing to 7, that being the number of perfect completeness, these are meant as letters to all the church.

Study & Application

- A recent BBC article suggested a simple way to improve your health is develop better self-awareness. How self-aware do you think you are? How easy do you find it when others try to “help” you be more self-aware?
- Read Revelation 1:9-20.
- This picture of Jesus walking amongst the 7 golden lampstands reminds us that Jesus is here amongst his churches. Take a moment to ponder what you think he notices as he wanders amongst his churches today.
- Read Revelation 2:1-7
- V 2 notes that the church in Ephesus has “tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and have found them to be false” How do you think they did this? How can we today test if an apostle, teacher, or anyone else is speaking Godly truth?
- V4 says that the church has “abandoned the love you had at first”. What do you think this means?
- On Sunday, Clare read excerpts from “Mystery Worshipper” reviews of two churches (links below). Read the reviews again and discuss –what would Jesus be saying to each of these churches?
- It’s perhaps easier to evaluate other churches. What do you think Jesus would be saying about our church based on his message for the church in Ephesus? (It is easy to focus on our personal opinions and/or preferences, try to keep your focus on the passage and what it is saying)