



NEWMARKET COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Connecting people with God
within authentic community
where all are welcome.*

Word Notes: Sunday 13th January 2019

CSI Dark Shadows

Key Text: Rev 2:8-17

The Lords' review and feedback to these churches serves as a reminder that we are in a battle zone. Not a war of the world but one of the spirit which is played out here on earth. Be on your guard against dilution of the truth, "dilution" with other philosophies or religions and immorality. The challenges they faced are not unknown in our own time, perhaps more keenly seen in some other nations by way of physical persecution yet in our own nation the rise of liberalism, permissiveness and post-modern individualism has resulted in the church being ridiculed or outright attacked for holding to its Jesus only, ultimate truth position.

Study & Application

Is the religious climate in the UK today more like Smyrna or Pergamum? How does that manifest in regard to the way Christians and The Church are regarded? Can you think of positive and negative attitudes in private and public spaces that support your view?

Smyrna

In what ways might the UK church be seen to be worldly poor yet spiritually rich when thinking about the ways Christians are criticised or slandered?

Are Christians imprisoned in the UK today for their beliefs? What form of persecution does that take?

Pergamum

What modern context would you see for eating "food sacrificed to idols" in our world? What is your response or what choices do you make to keep clear of these?

Read 1 Cor 9:14-21. What perspective does that put on the matter?

Read 1 Cor 5:9-12. Discuss this scripture in the context of how we obey Jesus' command to go into the world. Is it our remit to judge the unsaved for not behaving as if they were saved? What should be our attitude towards the unsaved both as we meet them in the world and as they come into our midst?

How can we remain true to the life to which we are called, from where can we draw strength to protect our walk with Jesus?

Prayer

Talk about how you can support one another in the battle and pray for challenges we all encounter or that some specifically face at this time.