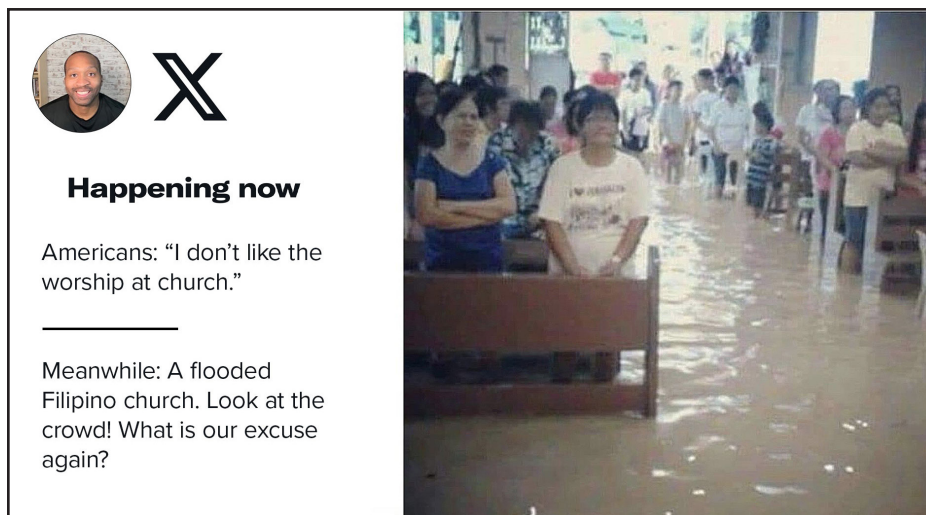


REVELATION

Jesus Loves His Church (Part 1) | January 14, 2024

Read Revelation Chapter 2:1-11

- This passage shows Jesus's love for his church. Do you love his church?
- Look at the following social media post:



We are going to look at the first 2 churches mentioned in Revelation

The Church at Ephesus

The Good

- Good works
- Patient endurance
- Cannot bear those who teach wrongly (Acts 20:28-30)

The Bad

- They abandoned their first love

The Church at Ephesus was told to do these three things (R's):

1. Remember what it was like when you first fell in love with Jesus
2. Repent
3. Return to works motivated by your first love

Mentions one more good thing the church is doing: "You hate the work of the Nicolaitans."

1. Nicholas one of the first 7 deacons in Acts 6 (taught there were no moral restrictions)
2. Could refer to the start of church hierarchy (Nike: victory/laity)

Final word:

- The proof you are one who conquers: you're still a Christian tomorrow!
- You will eat of the tree of life

The Church at Smyrna

- Nothing negative is listed about this church
- Note the Tribulation/Suffering (Myrrh) they are going through:
 1. Poverty (goods stolen)
 2. Prison
 3. Persecution, even death (the example of Polycarp 155 AD)
- Tested for 10 days - what does this mean?
 1. Does it mean a literal 10 days of persecution/testing?
 2. Some think it refers to 10 years
 3. Others believe it refers to the 10 Caesars who persecuted Christians
- The crown (stephanos) of life for martyrs
- Those who conquer will never face the "second death"

The year of the eternal soul:

1. That will always eat of the tree of life in heaven (Revelation 20)
2. That will never face the second death