



Course Name: SALT Discipleship Lesson 13 - Summary: Putting It All Together

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Course description:

This course provides an overview summary of the lessons related to being a congregation of the Lord's people.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class students will have:

- A. Discussed your congregation as related to the congregations mentioned in Revelation.
- B. Categorized the activity of the congregation as it relates to disciple-making.

Outline of the class: Divide the class into groups of three or four. Ask each group to spend about 5-10 minutes to write out or list your answers and debrief as a class.

A. Reflect how our Savior viewed congregations in the book of Revelation.

1. 2 churches had only positive things said about them:

- a. **Smyrna:** "...tribulation, poor yet rich, slandered by Jews, be faithful and will receive crown of life"
- b. **Philadelphia:** "works, kept my word and have not denied my name. ... kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial..."

2. 3 churches had positive things mixed with negative said about them:

- a. **Ephesus:** "works, toil and patient endurance, cannot bear evil, tested false teachers, bearing up and not grown weary - but abandoned the love had at first and should do the works done at first."
- b. **Pergamum:** "hold fast my name, did not deny my faith - but some hold teaching of Baalam, eat food sacrificed to idols. Some hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans."
- c. **Thyatira:** "works, love, faith, service, faithful endurance, growing - but tolerate Jezebel."

3. 2 churches had only negative said about them:

- a. **Sardis:** “you are dead”
- b. **Laodicea:** “...lukewarm...I will spit you out of my mouth”

B. Commentators point out that “seven churches” implies the totality of all congregations then and today since the number seven in the Bible refers to completeness.

Discussion Question 1: What would Jesus say about your congregation? Which of the categories of the Seven Churches does your congregation fall into?

C. The previous lessons have empowered you to become disciples making disciples in the manner of the 1st century Christians.

- 1. You have developed an individual purpose statement and an approach to discussing Jesus with others.
- 2. You have discussed your vision of the future.
- 3. You have developed goals for your congregation.
- 4. You have developed values for your congregation.
- 5. You have discussed areas of focus where member talents, leader passions and community needs overlap.

D. Many organizations go through phases in determining what actions they will take to meet their goals and fulfill their potential:

- 1. We don't know what to do.
- 2. We don't know how to do it.
- 3. We don't want to do what it takes.
- 4. We are ready to do whatever it takes.

Discussion Question 2: Which phase listed above best represents where your congregation is?

E. Consider this approach:

- 1. Do their things in their places.
- 2. Then - Do their things in our places.
- 3. Then - Do our things in our places.

Discussion Question 3: Thinking about your congregational goals, list action plans and who will do what to accomplish the goals.

Conclusion:

- A. Our congregations can and should resemble a congregation mentioned in Revelation that had only good said about it.
- B. The key is to stay focused on your vision, work on the mission, and plan accordingly to move in the direction God plans for you. Make Disciples!