

Life Application Notes

Week beginning 5th Jan (West End) 12th Jan (Lordshill/Central).

Culture Revealed. *What Matters to Jesus in the Local Church?*

Chris Kilby. Letter 1 (Ephesus) – Revelation 1&2

Opening Up.

- All together describe some of the qualities you look for or observe in someone who is a 'close friend'
- John – who scribed the book of Revelation was one of Jesus closest friends and followers. Where in John's life with Jesus do we see the qualities of friendship we have mentioned played out?

Digging In

In Revelation 1:9-20 we see John's vision of a glorified Christ, who then dictates to John letters to seven churches.

Read Revelation 2:1-7

Jesus instructs John to write to 'The angel of the church in Ephesus'. Throughout time there has been wide speculation on what this actually means.

Some scholars have concluded that it is to the church leaders who for some reason are referred to as 'angels'. Others have said that it is to be given to an angelic messenger who will relate it to the church, whilst others have suggested that it is more akin to writing to the 'spirit' of the church – i.e. it is a letter for the whole church. Others have concluded that each church has both a physical leadership (elders) and a spiritual leadership (angels) who are ascribed to each church.

Whatever interpretation is most acceptable – we can't avoid that these are important letter which need to be communicated to the church for their life and health. It shows us the importance Jesus places on the local church.

- What did Jesus **commend** the church in Ephesus for?
- How could we **cultivate** these qualities at Life Church?
- What did Jesus have **against** them?
- How can you and I **avoid** the same error?

Rounding Off

Ask everyone to suggest just ONE THING that they will do this week to cultivate their love for Jesus. Commit these things to God in prayer.