



-- **Big Idea:** The church exists to reach out, welcome in, build up, and send forth for the glory of God.

### 1.) The church **LABORS**

- Affirmations – v. 2:2a, 2:19, Ephesians 2:10
- Denunciations – v. 3:1, 3:15-16, Matthew 3:10
- Conclusion – We are meant to be soldiers, not spectators.
- Application – v. 3:2-3 – “Wake up, and strengthen what remains... Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent.”
- **This call to labor aligns with our purpose of “REACHING OUT”** (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

### 2.) The church **LOVES**

- Affirmations – v. 2:19, 1 John 3:14
- Denunciations – v. 2:4, 1 John 4:20
- Conclusion – Love for each other is one of the surest marks of the true church.
- Application – v. 2:5 – “Repent, and do the works you did at first.”
- **This call to love aligns with our purpose of WELCOMING IN”** (John 13:34-35).

### 3.) The church **LISTENS**

- Affirmations – v. 2:7, 11a, 17a, 29; 3:6, 13, 22, Matthew 7:24-25
- Denunciations – v. 3:17, Matthew 7:26-27
- Conclusion – Gospel transformation comes to those who listen to Christ’s voice and submit to His Word.
- Application – v. 3:18-20 – “Be zealous and repent... If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”
- **This call to listen aligns with our purpose of BUILDING UP”** (Ephesians 4:22-24).

#### 4.) The church **LIGHTS** (the way).

- Affirmations – v. 2:2b-c, 2:6, 1 Peter 2:9
- Denunciations – v. 2:14-15, 2:20-24, 2 Peter 2:1
- Conclusion – The church is meant by God to be an uncompromised beacon of truth.
- Application – v. 2:25 – *“Only hold fast what you have until I come.”*
- **This call to listen aligns with our purpose of BUILDING UP** (2 Corinthians 5:20-21).

#### 5.) The church **LASTS**

- Affirmations – v. 2:2, 2:3, 2:9, 2:13, 3:8, 1 John 2:19
- Conclusion – The church exists to bring glory to God by treasuring Him above all else in every circumstance, no matter how difficult.
- Application – v. 2:10 – *“Do not fear what you are about to suffer... Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”*
- **This is why we emphasize that all we are and do is to be “FOR THE GLORY OF GOD”** (1 Corinthians 10:31).

#### **Application – Live and long for what is AHEAD**

- In every letter, Christ directs the church into His purposes for us by revealing the future and urging us to live for it.
  - v. 2:7b, 2:11b, 2:17b-c, 2:26-28, 3:5, 3:9-12, 3:21
  - If eternal realities do not guide our direction and decisions today, then we have missed the point of these letters.
  - Revelation constantly shows the vast distinction between what is taking place on earth and what is transpiring in Christ’s kingdom.
- To those who ignore the words of Christ and reject His promises, Jesus gives devastating warnings about the future (v. 2:16, 3:3)
- How you seek and serve God in and through the church is a sure indication of what you believe about the **FUTURE** and what your **FUTURE** holds.