

218 Metanoia rules!

I'm afraid my mentioning the issue of gay sex has caused a bit of a stir, sorry. Can we put that to one side and look at the main issue: **God wants the church to metanoia!** And I think that's the main message God has been trying to drum into me over 218 articles.

(The recent 'FREE SAMPLE' of articles sums it up, I think, though it's ~7000 words.)

I've finished studying Revelation 1–3 with Tom Wright, and it says to me: **metanoia rules!** The church needs to metanoia or it's dead; dead in the world's eyes and dead in God's eyes.

I asked^[215] what the Bible meant by repentance (metanoia) and Rev 1–3 says it's: Your **love** has waned, your **teaching** is wrong and your **works** are not complete, so **metanoia** or else!

'Metanoia and do the things you did at first. If you do not metanoia, I will come to you and remove your lampstand'^{2:6}

'Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Metanoia therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.'^{2:16}

'Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and metanoia. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.'^{3:3}

Warning: 'Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and metanoia. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.'^{3:17}

Promise: 'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.'^{3:20}

That last one is probably the only verse in this book that any of us can quote, and that in a way proves my point. God is warning the **church to metanoia** or else!... and we lift that single verse out of context to tell **non-believers** to '**give your heart to Jesus**'.

So tell me I'm wrong. Tell me the church has *not* lost its first overwhelming love for God and for people. Tell me that we're *not* obsessed with telling 'them' that their individual sins are the real problem. If they repent and turn away from their sins, they'll be given eternal life. Yay!

The world is in a mess; the world needs hope; the world needs community; the world needs self-sacrificing love. What do we offer them? Individual sin, individual salvation so we can escape this sin-infected world to somewhere better. Plus: **we** know about ethics, so **we** say, 'The Bible teaches that this, that and the other are wrong.'

We need to **metanoia of our wrong teaching** before it's too late. So what is the modern day Nicolaitan teaching? I think it's reducing the gospel of the kingdom of Christ to little more than: *Each individual has to be saved by the death of Jesus so that we can go to heaven when we die.*

Metanoia before it's too late!

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