FRANKLIN CHURCH: FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

Dear Friend:

The book of Revelation can do doubt be a difficult book to understand. It is not the first book of the Bible I recommend new Christians start with. There is one section however that is not difficult to understand. It is not full of symbolism; you don't need 3 sets of commentaries to explain things. I am talking about Revelation Chapters 2 and 3. The author, John, brings a message from Jesus to 7 churches. These churches were struggling to survive in the Roman culture that was persecuting churches more and more, churches that were barely holding on, churches that were just trying to survive.

One church in particular was different than the other churches, the Church at Philadelphia (in modern Turkey, not Pennsylvania). The difference? They were the only church that did not need any rebuke or correction. They were a struggling church, but they were a church that wouldn't give up. John delivered a message: "You can move from surviving to thriving". I know Franklin Church wants to thrive. Here are a few lessons we can learn from the church at Philadelphia. First: Keep God's word and don't deny Christ. Our church has done this for over 170 years; keep going. Second: Love one another and be committed to each other. The church at Philadelphia would have fallen apart without this. Third: Hold on to what you have. I do not mean hold on to old ways that are no longer effective or hold on to resources that can help others. What I mean is hold on to our faith, the truths of biblical doctrine, and hold on to the power of God. Do these 3 things and we can become a thriving church!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Cathy Cotton (heart), Marilyn Holmes (cancer), a person you know who needs to be saved.

Events: This Sunday night at 6:30, please come to the church for an hour of prayer specifically for our church and lost souls in our community. Thursday, March 30th & Friday March 31st – please consider giving a few hours to work on the Easter Egg project.