



I. INTRODUCTION

Revelation chapters 2 and 3 are unique in the Bible. They speak to the seven churches of God in Asia at the time of the Apostle John. The Lord Jesus Christ himself sets out “what good looks like” for His churches. He sets out what is acceptable conduct and what is unacceptable conduct for His churches. This document sheds light on these blessed scriptures and these seven churches. If you are reading this document, you are in for a treat. You do not get any better preaching on proper Church conduct than from the Savior in these chapters. Before going into the specifics of each church, below are some general observations about these two wonderful chapters.

- **Revelation 2 and 3 Spoken Directly by Christ** – Revelation 2 and 3 are the only places in the Bible where the Lord Jesus Christ is quoted word for word for the entirety of two chapters back to back. If your Bible shows Christ’s words in red, all of Revelation chapters 2 and 3 are red. These two chapters are also one of the few places in the Bible where the Lord Jesus Christ specifically addresses the topic of the New Testament Church and what proper Church conduct is. They are also nearly the last words of Christ in the Bible.



- **Spoken by Christ on the Throne of Judgment** – Particular attention should be given to these two chapters because the Lord Jesus Christ is speaking them after his resurrection and in Heaven from His throne of judgment (Psalm 9:7). Christ is speaking not from the perspective of a despised man on earth,

but as a present Judge in heaven, rendering judgment on these Churches from the Council Halls of Eternity! Psalm 93:2 - *Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.* Christ dictates these chapters to his beloved friend, the Apostle John, from his Judgment Seat!

- **Seven Times Christ Repeats to Hear What He Says** – For effect and for importance, the Lord Jesus Christ says seven times in Revelation 2 and 3 to hear him. Why? Because your soul depends on it. See Rev. 2:7 “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” See also Rev. 2:11; 2:17; 2:29; 3:6, 3:13; and, 3:22.
- **To the Seven Churches in Asia Regarding Things Which Must Shortly Come To Pass – But First, House Cleaning – Clean Up Your Act!** - Revelation 1:1-4 state that this book is the Revelation of Jesus Christ and it is written by John to the Seven Churches that are in Asia for the purpose of showing them “things which must shortly come to pass.” Interestingly, before Christ turns to telling about his Revelation of the future he first covers some important house cleaning matters about the mostly sad state of the Seven Churches of Asia. Here is how Joseph A. Seiss, in his book *The Apocalypse*, puts it:

“Wonderful doings among the potencies of this world were about to take place. Seals were to be opened, ...the sun be darkened... mountains and islands moved from their places... battles were to be fought, in heaven and in earth and vials of wrath emptied... But in advance of all, and above all, the mind of the great Judge was on His little companies of believers, and to them He gave His first attention.”

When Christ addresses the state of the Churches, He is unapologetic and unambiguous about it. Christ is not going to cover matters of the future without first setting the record straight and rebuking his Churches for their misdeeds. That is how Christ rolls – upfront and straightforward. Revelation chapter 1 is an introduction whereas chapters 2 and 3 cover contemporaneous happenings and the state of each of the Seven Churches. In the State of the Union speech, the President of the United States discusses where the country is and where it is going. In chapters 2 and 3, the Savior describes the spiritual state of each Church. The Lord Jesus Christ wastes no words; the state of each Church is succinctly summarized in just a few words.

Many writers say that the Seven Churches of Asia stand representative for all churches in all ages and that every church fits into one of these seven categories.



■ **The Spiritual State of a Church Is the Only Thing That Matters** -

When men describe a church they most frequently talk about its size. The more people attending the church, the better it is thought to be. For example, they assume a church with 18,000 people in attendance is better than a church with 20 in attendance. Here is a news flash – SIZE DOESN'T MATTER TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! Do you know how many times the Savior mentions the number of people in attendance at the Seven

Churches? Zero. He never mentions how large the congregation is, and never rebukes any of the churches for having too few members. It is not about size and it never has been. It is about quality, not quantity.



People also judge the state of churches in terms of their balance sheet. How financially successful is the church. How much cash (filthy lucre) can be raised each Sunday? How large is the church's endowment? How large is the church building or campus? How large is the church staff? How many worship services are offered? How large is the choir? How large is the church school? How impressive is the art collection and stained glass? How much

money does the pastor make? These are all worthless questions in the eyes of the Lord Jesus Christ. *They err not knowing the scriptures* (Mat. 22:29). Revelation chapters 2 and 3 prove that men judge amiss. Psalms 50:21 *"...Thou thoughtest that I (God) was altogether such an one as thyself."*

The Lord Jesus Christ's word for it, these things do not matter. There is only one thing the Lord Jesus Christ looks to – what is the spiritual state of the Church, and are they obeying my Word? God Almighty does not look to earthly things – he considers only the spiritual and heavenly things related to His churches. The Lord seeth not as man seeth; *for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart* (1 Sam. 16:7). A church of 20 God fearing, commandment-keeping people walking soberly, righteously and godly is more precious in the sight of God than 18,000 disobedient rebels. *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves* (Mt 23:15). *The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity* (2 Timothy 2:19). Eight people in Noah's day were more precious to God than 16 billion! *Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.* 1Pe 3:20

■ **Christ's Standards and Expectations of the New Testament Church – What Good and Bad Look Like** - Revelation 2 and 3 offer a rare glimpse into the mind of God when it comes to His expectations of His churches. Christ sets out exactly “what good looks like” and “what bad looks like” when it comes to his Churches. The bottom line to the churches is to watch, hold fast, overcome and obey – not sit on your fat, lazy arses, drunk with the wine of fornication and adultery in the lap of luxury of your filthy riches.

■ **The Holy Church Report Card: Pass or Fail** – Revelation 2 and 3 are also unique in the Bible in that they show the Lord Jesus Christ as a discriminator of church conduct/behavior. The Lord Jesus Christ uses a pass/fail system in judging the spiritual state of the Seven Churches. The Churches of Jesus Christ get no passes in any areas. They are either blameless and right in all



areas or they fail. A strength in one area does not offset a deficiency in another area and there is no accommodation for failure in any area. There are no ambiguities in the standard of the True and Living God and deficient behavior is not tolerated, punishment is swift and severe – the candlestick is summarily removed and there are no appeal rights. If your candlestick is removed by God – you have absolutely no light! You are in utter darkness and you have no hope of salvation (Matthew 25:30).

Church	Pass/Fail
Church of Ephesus	Failing
Church in Smyrna	Passing
Church in Pergamos	Failing
Church in Thyatira	Failing
Church in Sardis	Failing
Church in Philadelphia	Passing
Church of the Laodiceans	Failing

■ **A Threat to the Failing Churches: Return, Repent and Reform or I Will Leave You!** – The message of the Lord Jesus Christ to the five failing churches is crystal clear – he threatens them within an inch of their lives! He tells them to return to their first love (return to the zeal you had for Christ when you first were saved), repent of your wrongdoings immediately and reform your behavior. If not, Christ will take your candlestick, He will fight against you, He will kill your children, He will give you great tribulation and He will spew you out! The message of Jesus Christ is one of urgency – do these things now – or else! If the Lord Jesus Christ is all loving all the time why does he threaten the Churches? See Rev. 2:5, 2:16, 2:22-23, 3:3, and, 3:16.

■ **Only One Church in Each of These Cities** – All of the cities where the Seven Churches were located were important cities of commerce. It is

certain that in each of these places there were many religions, religious systems, beliefs, churches, temples and places of worship of all kinds from many different cultures. Yet, in each of these cities there was only one Church of the Lord Jesus Christ and five of the seven of those where in trouble.

- **Unto the Angel of Each Church** – Christ addresses each of His writings to the Angel of that specific church: “Unto the angel of the Church of Ephesus write...” These angels are none other than the pastors of each church. Christ addresses his judgment, rebuke and directions to the pastor. The pastor is responsible for the spiritual state of the church. Woe to you pastors (see Jer. 23) that take lightly this charge - your fat pensions will look like pittance against hell fire. Instead of being faithful pastors and preaching right, you preached smooth things, and you will pay dearly for it. See Isaiah 30.

- **Map of the Seven Churches of Asia**



II. CHURCH #1 - CHURCH AT EPHESUS

A. Ephesus the City



Temple of Artemis/Diana of the Ephesians

The first Church discussed by Christ was at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1). Ephesus was an ancient Greek city (in Asia Minor), which is in present day Turkey. It was established by the Greeks 1,200 years before the writing in Revelation. At the time of John's writing Ephesus was under the control of the Roman Empire and was the capital of the Roman province of Asia. Ephesus was a metropolis and one of the largest seaports of the ancient world. It was also a major trading and banking

center. Its population was approximately 250,000.



Artemis -
Diana of the
Ephesians

The City was famous for its temple of Artemis, the Greek Goddess of hunting, fruitfulness and childbirth (see above). Artemis was also known as Diana (Diana of the Ephesians – see left). In Acts 19 the Apostle Paul writes about his preaching at Ephesus and the uproar he created when he admonished the city to not worship idols (see Acts 19:28). In response to Paul's preaching, Demetrius, a silversmith, stirred up the whole city (and his fellow silversmiths) against Paul saying: "Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth, ...not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also **that the temple of the great goddess Diana** should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth...and... the whole city was in confusion." (Acts 19:25-29.) The temple to Artemis/Diana was

one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. Ephesus was a particularly evil place. Paul says that he "fought with beasts at Ephesus" (I Cor 15:32). These beasts were of the human kind. Paul left Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus (Acts 18:18-19) in approximately AD 54 and was keenly interested in the Church there. In 1 Cor. 16:19 Paul writes that Aquila and Priscilla had a Church there in their house.

The Apostle Paul spent several years at Ephesus and "God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul" there (see Acts 19:11). Paul also wrote a letter to the Ephesians that is the New Testament. *Martyrs Mirror* suggests that Timothy spent 15 years in Ephesus as a bishop of that Church and that he eventually was stoned to death at Ephesus by heathens there. It also suggests that Onesimus, the servant of Philemon (see the book of Philemon) was also stoned to death at Ephesus.

The Church at Ephesus was one of the beacons of the New Testament and had much to be thankful for. Yet, by the time John is writing Revelation 2 (approximately AD 96), a scant 42 years after it had begun, the Church at Ephesus had backslidden and was in jeopardy of losing its candlestick.

Because the Church at Ephesus had such a great pedigree, having been set up by none other than the Apostle Paul himself, the Lord Jesus Christ gave the church a pass. Not! There are no free passes. Acts 10:34-35: "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." The city of Ephesus was conquered by the Goths, Arabs, and Turks and in A.D. 1403 it fell to the Mongols. The city was eventually abandoned and in the late 1800's its ruins were discovered.

B. Revelation 2:1-7

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:
3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.
4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.
6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

C. Analysis

THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

Positives of the Church	Negatives of the Church	What Christ Commands the Church to do
■ Their works	■ They left their first love	■ Remember from where they fell
■ Their labour		■ Repent
■ Their patience		■ Do their first works
■ They could not bear them that were evil		
■ They tried them which said they were apostles and were not, and found them liars		
■ They “hast borne”		
■ They labored for the name of Christ and did not faint		
■ They hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans		

- **8 to 1 Ratio of Good Works to Bad Works** – Interestingly, the Church at Ephesus is commended for eight good behaviors and is only faulted for one. Yet, the one fault is enough for the Lord Jesus Christ to threaten to take their candlestick away and banish them to hell for eternity.
- **Their “Works” and Their “Labor”** - Christ knows all the works and labor of His people and His churches in every age. He takes notice of these. He approves and is well pleased in them. “Works” refers to the outward preaching of the Gospel where “labor” refers to internal strife/matters.

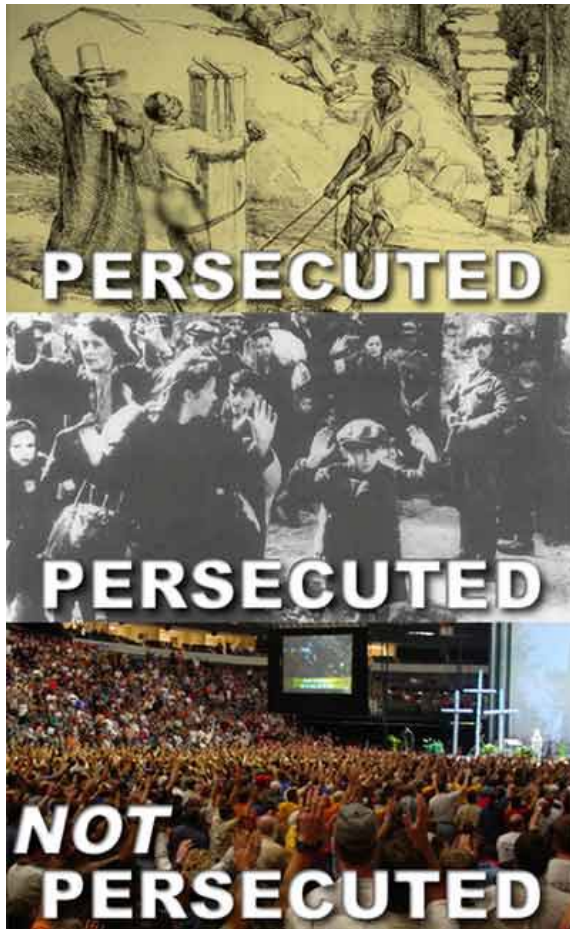
The works of His Church include:

- Their frequent preaching (“in season and out of season” – 2 Tim. 4:2);
- Losing their lives and not saving them (Luke 9:24); and
- Outward struggles with those that would oppose their ministry (2 Tim. 4:14)

The Church at Ephesus faced a daunting challenge regarding the widespread worship of idols that was engrained in the people (for 1,200 years before) and which the city was known for throughout the world. That is why Paul said he fought with the beasts (plural) at Ephesus.

The labor of His Church includes:

- The constant administration of the ordinances;
- The diligent exercise of church discipline;
- Praying (Col. 4:12); and
- Studying the Word of God and doctrines of the Church (1 Tim. 5:17)



Dr. John Gill, a Baptist preacher and author in 1700's England, primarily known for his exhaustive exposition of the entire Bible, says the labor of a church is intensive to the mind in studying and to the body in the outward discharge of it. The true labor of the Gospel is hard and difficult both in terms of the amount of time and energy it takes to study to show thyself approved and to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15) as well as the physical toll it takes on the body. Gill says that both the work and labor of the Church become difficult and laborious through the malice and opposition of enemies, and the weakness of friends. Rejoice WBC, this uniquely sounds like this little church. Gill says that those churches that are diligent in their work and labor deserve respect and even double honour (1 Tim. 5:17); and though they may not have it from men, yet Christ takes notice of

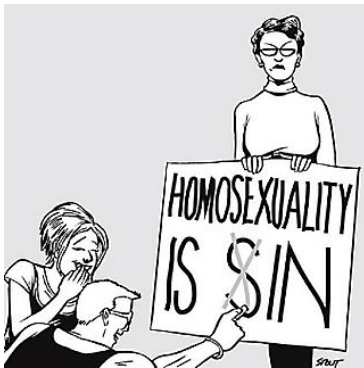
them and their labors, and commends them for them, and will reward them. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister" Hebrews 6:10. This is the mold that the churches are to follow – it is heady stuff and it is hard stuff. Also, Gill specifically states that part of their labor was regarding the diligent exercise of church discipline. Most of the churches in the U.S. completely fail in this respect. The exercise of church discipline, properly loving and caring for one another, eradicating roots of bitterness (Heb 12:15), and rightly testing people who say they are apostles and are not (Rev. 2:2), requires task intensive daily work that is critical to the survival of a proper New Testament church. Note: these good

works in Revelation 2 are different than the “wonderful works” done by the false prophets in Matthew 7:22.

■ **Their “Patience”** – Gill says they were commended for their patience because of the following:

- Their patience in suffering reproaches from the masses;
- Their patience in suffering persecutions for the sake of the Gospel and for professing the Gospel which they bore patiently, cheerfully, and constantly;
- Their patience in bearing the infirmities of weak saints and in reclaiming and restoring persons out of the way; and,
- Their patience and perseverance in faithfully waiting for the success of their ministry, fully believing and expecting it would turn into heavenly glory.

Rev. 14:12 “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” The patience of the saints is wrapped up in keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ. They are intertwined and inseparable! The patience of the Church of Ephesus is mentioned twice by the Lord Jesus Christ, so it must have been something they were known for and it had significant meaning. The masses of the churches don’t have proper works, they don’t have proper labor, and they sure don’t have patience because they: a) don’t suffer; b) don’t suffer any reproaches from the masses because of what they believe and preach; c) don’t have any persecutions; and, d) don’t keep the commandments.



■ **They Could Not Bear Them That Are Evil** -

The churches of our generation not only “bear” them that are evil, **they “bear them up!”** They enable them that are evil - they block and tackle for them. When WBC admonishes them that are evil, these damned of God churches not only comfort, defend, protect and prop up them that are evil, they then take the next step and use all manner of political, financial and worldly power they can muster to threaten,

attack and persecute WBC for calling their unrighteous behavior evil.

The Church at Ephesus, no... the Church at Topeka (WBC), disdained people that according to Gill “were either in their principles or in their practices, or both; men that lived immoral lives, and held erroneous doctrines, these the primitive ministers and churches could not bear; **they had an inward abhorrence and detestation of them in their minds**; they could not bear them in communion with them; **they admonished them according to the nature of their offence**, and cast out such as were obstinate and incorrigible; they withdrew from such as were disorderly, and rejected heretics after the

first and second admonition; their zeal for church discipline is here taken notice of to their commendation.” The Church at Ephesus could not tolerate evil people for an instant!



- **They Tried Them Which Said They Were Apostles And Were Not, And Found Them Liars** - Satan’s ploy is to infiltrate the churches with pretenders that appear good for awhile but who actually are evil men who seek to change the doctrine! “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness” Jude 4. The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ must watch constantly for this and try everyone against the

standards! *Strong’s Concordance* says “tried” means to test, to prove and to examine.

They examine each person, by closely observing their behavior, listening carefully to their words, and constantly evaluating and testing them. Notice the verse does not say, they let anyone in the church indiscriminately and let them do whatever they want! The standard of the Lord Jesus Christ is to put everyone to the test – it is the proving ground – do you pass or do you fail? Do you have a pretense of grace or do you have the real thing? Time will tell and the righteous in this little church will find out the matter and will test your fruit. No one gets a pass in the true churches of God – iron sharpens iron – Proverbs 27:17.



Iron Sharpens Iron

- **“And Hast Borne”** – Strong says the word “borne” means “to bear what is burdensome – to uphold and to sustain.” This is the picture of Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress! The weight of resisting Satan, sin, and the filthiness of this world is enormous – it is a burden. Gill says it means to carry “afflictions, reproaches, and persecutions, which pressed sore, and lay heavy on these ministers and churches; and yet they bore them with constancy and cheerfulness, and were not moved by them.” They carried the burden in the heat of the



day against the wiles of Satan. With this heavy burden they were an easy target for their enemies yet - through Christ we say “For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Mt 11:30. With the help of God, WBC hast borne! WBC has borne prosecutions, lawsuits, jail time, countless assaults, vandalism,

loss of employment, laws throughout this country and at the highest levels passed against us, and literally millions of hard speeches, articles, radio and television news stories, Internet pages/videos, and television programs, documentaries, movies and plays against us and God.



- **And Hast Not Fainted** – Jesus commends the Ephesians for not fainting under the pressure of the persecutions and afflictions. Strong's says the word "fainted" means – to grow or become weary. Gill says "fainted" means to sink under the burden borne; to have your patience tired out; or to quit the service of Christ. WBC has not fainted! WBC has not given up! Here is how you know the mass churches of this generation have gone astray – they have no persecutions for what they believe – there is nothing for them to faint from.

- **They Hated the Deeds of the Nicolaitans – Which I Also Hate** – The Savior's word for it – it is okay to hate some things! Christ commends the Church at Ephesus for hating!! He commends them for hating the deeds of the Nicolaitans! So, who were the Nicolaitans and what did they do to enrage Christ?

Gill says the Nicolaitans had filthy and impure sex practices including fornication, adultery, and sexual uncleanness. The Nicolaitans shared their wives among each other and they also ate things offered to idols. Some say that they get their name from Nicolas (Acts 6:5) but that is not authoritative, just conjecture. Gill quotes Dr. Lightfoot who says that the Nicolaitans were not called so from any man, but from the word hlykn, "Nicolah", "let us eat", which they often used to encourage each other to eat things offered to idols. The expositors Jamieson, Fausset and Brown say the Nicolaitans were professing Christians who, like Balaam of old, tried to introduce licentiousness into the Church including a lack of sexual restraint. In his commentary, John Trapp says that they taught to have a community of wives. Moses Lowman says they were idolatrous and had unclean practices. Seiss suggests that the Nicolaitans exercised tyrannical lordship over the church. There is some obscurity as to exactly what these deeds were, but nearly all commentators agree in a broad sense that the Nicolaitans practiced gross social and sexual indulgences. The Church at Ephesus hated these deeds of gross social and sexual indulgences much like WBC hates the deeds of the Sodomites and other sexual practices outside the standard of God. Take great comfort WBC, the Lord Jesus Christ hates these gross social indulgences as well, which nearly every other so called church in this country embraces, supports, and loves.

The Church in Ephesus stands directly opposed to the Church in Pergamos. The Church in Pergamos readily engaged in these filthy deeds where the Church in Ephesus hated them.

■ They Left Their First Love



“They left their first love” has two primary meanings. The first is that the members of the Church at Ephesus no longer had a proper love for each other. “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently”, 1 Pet. 1:22. “And above all things

have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins”, 1 Peter 4:8.

Second, the Church at Ephesus forgot their love and zeal for Christ and instead had their heart in worldly things. “Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things”, Php 3:19. Gill says that in the beginning at the Church at Ephesus, all of the saints were single minded in their love for Christ. They were moved by Him and had great zeal for Him. Generally the first love is the warmest. As time went by, their love for Christ was abated in its heat and fervor and they were remiss in their exercise of their love for Christ. So how does this happen?

- **False prophets** – “And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold” Matthew 24:11-12.
- **Love of Earthly Things** - Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.” 2nd Timothy 4:10.
- **Weariness** – “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”, Gal. 6:9.

False prophets and false doctrines corrupt our love and zeal for God. When we mind earthly things it takes our focus off of heavenly things. When we grow tired of persecutions and trials, which are as gold tried in the fire and the very thing that separates the sheep from the goats, we faint; and our zeal for God and our love for each other is weakened.

In Jeremiah 2 the Lord talks about how tender his love for Israel was at the beginning, and vice versa; and how it waned and left. “Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown. Israel was holiness unto the LORD, and the firstfruits of his increase: all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the LORD. Hear ye the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of

Israel: Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain? Neither said they, Where is the LORD that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?" Jeremiah 2:1-6.

Here is Gill on this: "For the covenant God made with that people, when he brought them out of Egypt, was in the form of a marriage contract; he became their husband, and they became his spouse and bride. The bond some of them felt for him and He for them was strong at this time."

We must pursue the Lord our God as follows: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment" Mr 12:30. Nothing less will do.

Congratulations WBC, your love for Christ is more than it was when you started! Your works, your patience, your godliness, your service, your ability to bear burdens are all more than any previous days. Can you say 41,000 pickets?

III. CHURCH #2 – CHURCH AT SMYRNA

A. Smyrna the City



Amphitheatre were the
Pastor of the Church at
Smyrna's was burned alive

Smyrna is now called Izmir and is in Turkey. Smyrna was about 35 miles north of Ephesus. Like Ephesus, it was an important port city and was famous for its wealth and commerce. Smyrna was the home of the famous poet Homer and it was filled with pagan temples to Apollo, Aphrodite and Zeus among others. There was also a monument to the Roman emperor Tiberius there. Smyrna was closely aligned with Rome and because it had a large Jewish population it was an extremely difficult place to live as a Christian. The text itself alludes to the persecution of the Church at the hands of the Jews. Many say that the angel or pastor referred to in the text was a man



named Polycarp who was a disciple of John. Gill says that Polycarp was burned alive at the large amphitheatre there which still exists today. *Martyrs Mirror* gives a detailed account of Polycarp's death.

B. Revelation 2:8-11

- 8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;
- 9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.
- 10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
- 11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

C. Analysis

THE CHURCH AT SYMRNA

Positives of the Church	Negatives of the Church	What Christ Commands the Church to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Their works 	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: the devil shall cast <i>some</i> of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Their tribulation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Their poverty 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death

- **Tribulation** – Christ testifies that he knows of their tribulation. Strong says “tribulation” means afflictions, anguish, persecution, distress, oppression and straits. It refers to the pressure put on the church – a “pressing together” for the purpose of breaking it. Gill says that tribulation is “Christ’s legacy to his people” and it is their way to heaven. Christ takes notice of the persecutions of His Churches and what they suffer. This tribulation also refers to all of the heathens’ hard speeches (Jude 15) they have made against the church. Take note WBC, the number of hard speeches, hard editorials, slanderous newspaper stories, slanted radio programs, lying television stories, vicious blog attacks, lawsuits, criminal prosecutions, general lying bad mouthing, perjury, attacking e-mails, fierce voicemails, angry middle fingers, screaming out car windows and all the rest, that number the sand of the seashore (millions!) will all accrue toward your benefit and against your adversaries! Christ your Savior remembers every one of them!
- **Poverty** – The Church at Smyrna was impoverished. It was financially poor. Gill says this was done “through the spoiling of their goods, to which

they were exposed for the profession of Christ.” Christ takes notice of this because their poverty came not by sin, but by suffering for His sake alone. WBC, you have amassed zero financial wealth while you are here on earth! If it costs \$10.9 million to preach the Word of Christ boldly (Heb 4:16) and without apology, it’s a bargain. Lawsuits, criminal proceedings, persecutions, repairing vandalism, travel costs to preach, signs, computers, web sites, videos, books, etc., to further the message of obedience, the commandments, the fear of God and the coming of Christ, that is what is important, not how much money is saved. The Lord Jesus Christ said the Church at Smyrna was on earth financially impoverished but rich, wealthy, and abounding in eternal possessions. Like Smyrna, WBC is rich in faith, rich in Christ and Godly favor, rich in the blessings of the covenant, rich in the fountains of the living water that has no end, rich in good works, and rich in the heavenly inheritance that is better than gold that perisheth. “As it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” 1 Cor. 2:9. Christ contrasts Smyrna with Laodicea. Smyrna is poor in the world’s eyes but rich in God’s eyes. Laodicea on the other hand is rich in the eyes of the world but is spiritually poor.



- **“Blasphemy of the Jews, the Synagogue of Satan”** - The word “blasphemy” means slander, railing, and evil speaking. Christ testifies that He knows that there are Jews at Smyrna that actively and maliciously slandered the Church and the people in the

Church and that these Jews themselves were people of bad principles and practices. They were Jews by national descent but were not spiritual Jews (Rom. 2:28-29). These Jews were the children of the devil and they were influenced by Satan to make evil speeches against them and to oppose them whenever possible. The Lord Jesus Christ interestingly refers to this group as being the synagogue of Satan - an assembly, congregation or bringing together of evil people (or a collection of devils) energized by Satan to be an enemy of this little Church of God. WBC knows a lot about synagogues of Satan. We encounter them every day. The Synagogue of Satan at Smyrna was filled with evil people. They, like their father, were murderers and persecuted the church to the death. So much for Christ not saying anything bad about anyone.

- **Satan Will Cast You in Prison, Cause You Great Tribulation and Kill You, But Be Faithful and Overcome** - Christ encourages the Church at Smyrna to be faithful unto death. He warns them of what is coming - tribulation, prison and death will be coming to them – but directs them to not fear, hold fast unto death and overcome. He lets them know that the persecution has a set time – thus the reference to 10 days – and that he, Christ, is keeping track. He lets them know that Satan is persecuting

them. The Church is commanded by none other than Christ himself to not fear them which kill the body (Matthew 10:28). This is similar language to when the angel of God stood before Paul and told him to “Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar”, Acts 27:24. Paul knew he would be killed at Rome but the Angel told him to fear not. We have no reason to fear – our God is in control. We must also be faithful and trustworthy when it comes to preaching the pure unmixed Gospel of Christ. We also must overcome. There is no prosperity Gospel in Revelation 2 and 3! We must not be intimidated by poverty, the spoiling of our goods, tribulation, persecution and death itself. The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ overcomes in all ages!

IV. CHURCH #3 - CHURCH AT PERGAMOS

A. Pergamos the City



The city of Pergamos, often called Pergamum, was a great ancient city. It was a city of Troas. Revelation 2 is the only place in the Bible where Pergamos is mentioned, but Troas is mentioned by Paul several times. There is some speculation that Pergamos was built on the ruins of Troy. Pergamos was 60 miles north

of Smyrna.

Pergamos was a city of knowledge and learning and was known for its philosophers, writers, artists and its library (which rivaled the library at Alexandria and had 200,000 books). Parchment was first made there. The city also had a medical school. Interestingly, Galen, one of the most famous and influential



Dr. Galen of Pergamos

physicians in the history of medicine, was born in Pergamos. Galen is truly world famous and wrote one of the first medical text books, *Anatomical Procedures*, which served as the standard anatomy textbook in Western and Middle Eastern civilizations until modern times. His methods for treating disease continued to influence physicians well into the 1800's (more than 1,600 years). Galen (A.D. 129 – 210) lived contemporaneously, or nearly so with the Church mentioned in Revelation 2. He is a sterling example of 1 Cor. 1:26 “For

ye see your calling brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.”

And, for you Gladiator movie buffs, Galen got his start treating gladiators... and... wait for it... Galen was the personal physician to the household of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius. Pergamos also had its fair share of idols and idol worship. Pergamos was famous for having a large altar to Zeus.



Rod of Asclepius

In addition, Asclepius (see left) was the god of healing in Greek methodology. The Romans called him Aesculapius. There was a temple to Asclepius at Pergamos. The Greeks and later Romans worshipped him here and said this false god could cure diseases. Those that were sick would often come to Pergamos to be healed at the temple. This explains why they had a medical school there. The medical profession adopted his (Asclepius'/Aesculapius') symbol called the Rod of Asclepius, a snake entwined around a staff, as its symbol.



The significance of the serpent in the Rod of Asclepius has been interpreted in many ways; sometimes the shedding of skin and renewal is emphasized as symbolizing rejuvenation. Another idea is the ambiguity of the serpent as a symbol, and the contradictions it is thought to represent, reflect the ambiguity of the use of drugs.

Products deriving from the bodies of snakes were known to have medicinal properties in ancient times so it is believed this may have been the reason. The staff also seems to be a symbol of some similar thing, such as that unless we are supported by such inventions as these, in so far as falling continually into sickness is concerned, stumbling along we would fall even sooner than necessary. Interestingly, Satan's seat was at Pergamos (see below), that also might be a great reason why the snake is a prominent part of this false god's symbol which the stupid medical profession adopted! Some also say this came from Moses when God used him to heal the children of Israel by having those that sinned look at a serpent on a bronze pole.

- **Satan's Seat** - Pergamos is also famous because Revelation 2:13 states that this was where Satan's seat was.
- **Antipas – My Faithful Martyr** – Pergamos is also famous because Christ's faithful servant Antipas was slain there.



Sappho of Lesbos

Lesbos – Another interesting aspect of Pergamos is its close proximity to the Greek island Lesbos which is sometimes translated Lesvos (see map at beginning of document). The island is very close to the city of Pergamos. Lesbos is where we get the word "lesbian". Webster's dictionary defines lesbian as: "of or relating to Lesbos [from the reputed homosexual

band associated with Sappho of Lesbos]: of or relating to homosexuality between females.” Lesbian is derived from the poems of Sappho (an ancient Greek poet who lived around 600 BC), who was born in Lesbos. The poems contain expressions of homosexual love among women. Because Lesbos was in such close proximity to Pergamos, some speculate that Pergamos had a close affiliation with the filth of homosexuality and Lesbianism.



B. Revelation 2:12

12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

C. Analysis

THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS

Positives of the Church	Negatives of the Church	What Christ Commands the Church to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Their works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ They have them that held the doctrine of Balaam (idols and fornication) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Repent, or else He will come quickly and fight against them with the sword of his mouth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Where they dwelled – where Satan’s seat is and where Satan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ They have them that held the doctrine of the Nicolaitans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the

dwelleth		churches
■ They held fast His name		■ Overcome and they will eat of the hidden manna and be given a white stone in the which their new name is which no man knoweth
■ They did not deny his faith in the days of Antipas his faithful servant		■

■ **Pergamus - Where Satan's Seat was and Where Satan Dwelled** – Pergamus was a place of peculiar wickedness and filth as if Satan himself was enthroned here. It was given to much idolatry and the influence of Satan would explain the persecution of the saints and the martyrdom of the Lord's faithful servant Antipas. To dwell at Satan's seat of power, where his kingdom and authority was would have been extremely uncomfortable, as well as dangerous. It would have taken great care and prudence to live there. There also would have been great temptation there – where you find Satan you find lure and enticement to great filthiness and worldly pleasure. The power of darkness would have been there and Satan would have tried with all his will to snuff out the light of the Church. Gill says that it may be been called this because the Romans had a seat of power there and Roman emperors sometimes ruled from there. Take heart WBC, you know what it is like to dwell at Satan's seat, where 666 is the zip code and where Ichabod ("the glory of God has departed") is our university's mascot and where particularly evil people dwell and persecute the Church of God. What a wonderful place to sojourn and testify of your love for God!

■ **They Held Fast His Name and They Did Not Deny His Faith in the Days of Antipas His Faithful Servant** – Under great persecution, even unto death,

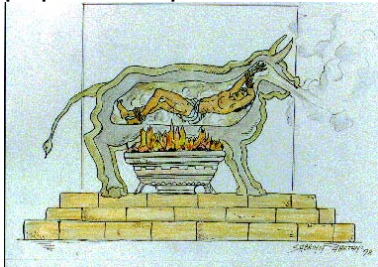


they refused to be ashamed of Christ! No humiliation, no embarrassment, and no amount of public ridicule was enough to make these people surrender or to capitulate. They occupied, they maintained and they defended pure Gospel truth when the world came in on them like a flood. Who does that sound like? Who is as **bold** as WBC? Literally

the whole world floods this little church with scorn, mockery, contempt, hatred

and scoffing, using every kind of media. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth” Romans 1:16. “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death” Philippians 1:20. “We have fought a good fight and we have kept the faith” 2Tim 4:7. Satan has energized the whole world but he prevails not against this little bitty church, because we have faith and our eyes are opened and we know through faith that there are more with us than with them!

- Our faithful brother Antipas dwelled at Pergamus. He dwelled in the very place where Satan dwelled and he was a faithful martyr for Christ. Gill says that Antipas is a form of “Antipappas” – which signifies “one that is against the pope.” Antipas bore a faithful testimony against all of Satan’s corruptions and



innovations in the very place where Satan had his most power. He chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, even unto blood, than to deny his Saviour! Some say that Antipas was burned to death in the brazen bull – a torture device where a person is locked inside a hollow bronze ox statue while a raging fire engulfs it in flames until the

occupant perishes.

- **They Have Them That Held The Doctrine Of Balaam (Idols And Fornication) (And Nicolaitans).** The church of Pergamos was polluted with people of corrupt minds, who did what they could to corrupt both the faith and



manners of the Church. Balaam enticed the Israelites with beautiful women from Moab and taught them to commit fornication. Here’s a clue, doomed america: the Lord Jesus Christ hates fornication. He hates it! He Hates it! HE HATES IT! Every single church in this doomed country has active members that fornicate their brains out. Here’s a secret – don’t tell anyone - GOD HATES FORNICATION!

1 Cor. 6:18 Flee Fornication

Here is how it looked on the ground. Balaam, for a price, told Balak (the King of Moab) to go set up inns, and place in them whorish women, to sell food and drink at a low price: and then the dumb Israelite men will come and eat and drink, and be drunken, and will lie with those whores and deny their God and then their God will be displeased with them and kill them. Balaam told Balak in effect “The God of this people hates whoredom, cause thy daughters to commit whoredom with them, and

ye shall rule over them.” And, when the Israelites whored with the daughters of Moab, the whores taught the Israelites to sacrifice things to idols and to worship their false gods – this is spiritual fornication which the Lord also hates! Part of the food and drink at the inns may have also been a part of religious ceremonies to their gods. Even with all of the good things the church at Pergamos did, they still did not get a pass for their fornication or idolatry. You do not get to bow down to Baal Peor or to “god loves everyone” and expect that everything will be all right. The Lord killed 24,000 Israelites over the stumbling block of Balaam!

The Church at Pergamus had another false notion as well: they had them that held to the doctrines of the Nicolaitans (which those of Smyrna hated!). Do not forget that Balaam was paid handsomely – he exchanged the truth of God for filthy lucre. This was a part of the doctrine of Balaam as well. In 2nd Peter 2:15 the Apostle Peter says “Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.” Brother Jude says in Jude 11 “Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.” The people of Pergamus were deeply corrupted and had absolutely enraged the Lord Jesus Christ! Of all of the seven churches it appears that the Church at Pergamus was in the worst shape.

- **Repent, Or Else I Will Come Quickly And Fight Against You With The Sword Of My Mouth** - The Lord Jesus Christ makes an open threat against the Church of Pergamus. He does not just tell them that he is going to take their candlestick – he tells that he is going to openly fight against them. The thought is that he is going to “war against them.” This is the only church that he makes this threat to. Fighting against them with the sword of his mouth is a direct reference to Revelation 1:16 where Christ is described in power and glory “and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword.” So much for the mealy-mouthed Christ this ignorant generation tries to palm off.

The Lord Jesus Christ is a man of war (Exodus 15:3) and he is no one to mess with and he will fight against any so-called church that duplicates the misdeeds of the Church at Pergamos. Repent or face the wrath of God! The Lord Jesus Christ is not like man. He does not make vain threats. His threats are real. They have real power behind them. His execution of his threats are terrible - his vengeance eternal and unchanging. This is a fight they cannot win!

Robert Haldane, a famous preacher in the Church of Scotland, in his exposition on the epistle to the Romans in the early 1800’s, said that men have a tendency to soften the characteristics of a sovereign God and that this is a mistake. Make no mistake, God will fight against you unless you repent

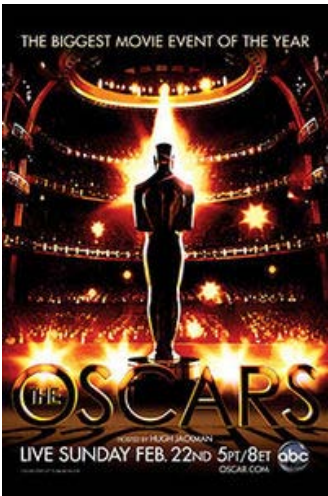


of these evil sins is what he tells this Church! “Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations.... Therefore the fathers shall eat the sons in the midst of thee, and the sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments in thee, and the whole remnant of thee will I scatter into all the winds.” Ezekiel 5:8-10,

■ **Overcome And Eat Of The Hidden Manna And God Will Give Them A White Stone In The Which Their New Name Is Written Which No Man Knoweth**

Hidden Manna - If the Church at Pergamos will repent of their sins and overcome the world, the Lord Jesus Christ promises that they will eat of the hidden manna of a Sovereign God. This is a reference to the supernatural manna which God provided to the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years. No one but the elect of God eat of this manna! It is nourishment for the souls. It is prepared for us in heaven! It is the food of righteousness. This manna is hidden from the carnal world of unregenerate man, but reserved to the elect as a part of their inheritance that is incorruptible and undefiled and which fadeth not away, I Pet. 1:4. It quickens, comforts and strengthens our soul. It is a personal and enduring gift from the Godhead and the Lord Jesus Christ to the Elect forever. To eat of this manna you must have a new body that can receive it. This new body is also a part of the gift.

White Stone With A New Name – To him that overcomes God promises to give him a free gift of a white stone. The white stone is absolution from the guilt of sin or a pardon, alluding to the ancient custom of giving a white stone to those acquitted on trial and a black stone to those condemned. It is given individually to each of God’s elect. No one is going to slip in unawares. This white stone cannot be purchased with money even if a person had the fortune of Bill Gates. Money is useless and without value in the heavenly realm. It is another intensely personal gift from the Lord Jesus Christ to each of God’s elect. The white stone is an everlasting symbol which will never fade away and is given from the Lord Jesus Christ to his elect for their individual persecutions they endured for his name sake, for keeping His words and testimony when all



around them were forsaking them and were ashamed of them. These stones will be distributed at the Last Day in front of the innumerable host of heaven and the inhabitants of hell. It will be a great testimony to all of the love of



God to each of his people. Those in hell that persecuted you, said all manner of evil against you falsely, flipped you off, screamed at you, hit you, pushed you, fired you from your jobs, secretly moved others to hurt you, vandalized your property, and people in high places that abused their power privately to harm you without a cause will see it and be ashamed of themselves and see their arch enemies receiving the praise of The Only Wise God. It will be like the academy of awards but with billions in attendance and instead of a worthless door stop, it will be something of unbelievable eternal value to you. It is a white stone so as to represent purity and absolution. It will be a precious stone – much more precious than a diamond! It will be beautiful!

And, each one will be individually made for its owner and have the owner's new heavenly name in it. We no longer will be called by our sinful, depraved name – we will have a new one – chosen by our God just for us! Isaiah 62:2 “and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name.” Often, families will have their own names of love and affection for their loved ones that no one else knows or uses. In Genesis 32:28 God changed Jacob's name to Israel: “Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.” Likewise we will be princes with God, we will have prevailed over our enemies and we will forever receive the personal blessing of the Sovereign God. How eternally wonderful it will be to speak the language of heaven and to be called by our own name! A name chosen by none other than the Lord Jesus Christ specifically for us!

So listen up you doomed churches like Pergamos. Lukewarm so-called “Christians” that do not want to put themselves out, that do not want to suffer, that do not put themselves into jeopardy (but want to save their lives) that will not obey the commandments, that demand to continue to live their filthy manner of life (fornication, adultery and worshipping idols) and instead get the accolades of men, and who follow the commandments of men – you will not overcome, you will succumb to Satan, and you will suffer hellfire.

V. CHURCH #4 - CHURCH IN THYATIRA

A. Thyatira the City



Thyatira was 37 miles to the south of Pergamus. It is now the city of Akhisar, Turkey. Thyatira was on a major road of the Roman Empire and was a relatively small city but was known for its commerce. The city had many trades and was thought to be full of guilds of bakers, bronze smiths, wool workers, potters, carpenters, linen weavers and tanners.



Thyatira is where Lydia was from. “And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul” Acts 16:14. This gives credence to Thyatira being a major city of the trades, since Lydia was a seller of purple. This meant that she sold purple silks or sold fabric dyed purple with the blood of certain shell fish. Purple

garments were in high demand, were quite expensive, and were often worn by royalty. The principal deity of the city was Apollo, worshiped as the sun-god under the surname Tyrimnas.

B. Revelation 2:18-29

18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am

he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

28 And I will give him the morning star.

29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

C. Analysis

THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA

Positives of the Church	Negatives of the Church	What Christ Commands the Church to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) teach b) seduce my servants to commit fornication c) eat things sacrificed unto idols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Repent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Charity 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hold Fast
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Service (ministry) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Overcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Faith 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Keep My Works
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Patience 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Let Him Hear
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Last to be More than the First 		



- **The Last to be More Than the First** - The quality and quantity of the works of the Church at Thyatira were better at the end when John was writing than when the Church first started. That is, their service to God had improved. It was the opposite of what happened to the Church at Ephesus, who left their first love and their love for Christ weakened. The Church at Thyatira had actually improved in their

faithful service to God, their patience in suffering affliction and their love for one another had increased. Their fruit was sweeter, richer in quality, more in number, more mature and totally better in every way than when they first began! They were going from strength to strength (Psalm 84:7) and through Christ they were increasing and making advances in their spirituality, godliness, holiness and service to God! “And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more” 1Th 4:10.



- **Thou Sufferest that Woman Jezebel, Which Calleth Herself a Prophetess, to Teach and to Seduce My Servants to Commit Fornication and to Eat Things Sacrificed unto Idols** – Jezebel was the wife of King Ahab, who was more evil than all those before him. We are told in 1 King 16:31-32 that she was the daughter of Eth-Baal, king of the Zidonians, and at

her bidding King Ahab went and worshipped and served Baal in Zidon and later erected an altar and house for Baal in Samaria. This included having 450 prophets of Baal eating at his table (1 Kings 18:19). We also know from 1 Kings 21 that Jezebel concocted the plan to take innocent blood and kill Naboth and his sons, so King Ahab could steal Naboth’s land by perjured testimony; she misused governmental power for religious purposes, to persecute and kill the prophets of God (1 Kings 18); she attempted to kill Elijah (1 Kings 19:2); she continually stirred up Ahab to do wickedness (1 Kings 21:25); and she was famous for her whoredoms and her witchcraft (2 kings 9:22). Jezebel was also priestess herself. Jezebel is one of the most wicked women of the Bible. How in the world did the Church at Thyatria come to have an evil person that was similar to Jezebel in their midst and not see it?

Jezebel was the daughter of Eth-Baal, the heathen king of the Zidonians. Eth-Baal, her father, came to power by murdering the king at the time (some say it was his brother). Prior to this, Eth-Baal was high-priest of the city unto Baal. He became the priest king of Zidon and Baal. He was an important

king and reigned long. His alliance with Ahab, King of Israel, further empowered him.



The Lord Jesus Christ further enlightens us regarding the sins of Jezebel in Revelation 2:20-23. No other place in the Bible includes this information about Jezebel and it comes from our King, so we know it is completely accurate. The Lord Jesus chastises the Church at Thyatira for suffering that woman Jezebel, who was a prophetess, to teach, etc. The word “sufferest” means that the Church at Thyatira allowed or let an immensely evil, cruel and blood thirsty woman like Jezebel to teach at the Church. They permitted it, let her alone, restrained her not and gave up on this important issue. The people of that Church and the men in particular are to blame for this sin. Jezebel called herself a prophetess (of Baal). The worship of Baal also included filthy sex practices and sexual indulgences. She was a filthy idolater and pusher of everything that was evil. Gill says “it was insufferable

for a woman to teach, and especially such a strumpet.”

This woman at the Church at Thyatira was akin to Jezebel. She, like Jezebel, seduced and corrupted the servants of the Most High to commit several awful sins, including fornication (both sexual and spiritual), to eat things sacrificed unto idols, witchcraft, and cruelty. Jezebel was strong willed against God and seduced the weak to do her will. This whore at the Church at Thyatira lead the Church away from the truth and subtly introduced spiritual error into that little Church with no correction or serious opposition from the elders. She introduced whoredoms and fornication into the Church with no thought of “adulterers and fornicators God will judge” (Heb 13:4) or “little children keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:21). This spiritual fornication is idolatry. She also seduced them to eat things sacrificed unto idols, like Balaam. “By a false spiritualism she led the Church into the grossest carnality.” The elders and the people of the Church failed in their duty to exhort one another daily (Heb 3:13) and to vote her and her filthy practices out of the Church (1 Cor. 5). They were both passive and active in the allowance of these awful sins and they allowed Satan and leaven to enter the Church unchecked!



- **I Gave Her (Jezebel) Space to Repent of Her Fornication, and She Repented Not** – Divine vengeance was delayed for Jezebel for quite some time. Jezebel had the time between when Elijah told her that the Lord had said that dogs would eat her, until her death to repent and she did not. In

addition, she lived approximately 10 years after Ahab's brutal death to repent and she did not. She was particularly hard hearted and rebellious. She was evil to the core and never repented of all of her murder, lies, witchcraft, idol worship and sexual impurities. She was completely incorrigible and instead of repenting of her sins she continued to engage in them right up until her death. The Lord Jesus Christ later appropriately refers to these practices as being from the depths of Satan.



- **I Will Cast Her Into A Bed And Them That Commit Adultery With Her Into Great Tribulation, Except They Repent Of Their Deeds** – Jesus Christ the Lord made a threat that if she (Jezebel) and those that engage in such activity directly did not repent, that He would cast them into bed of great tribulation. This includes all those that engage in adultery, fornication, and other sexual abominations and impurities. The bed

represents a bed of affliction/pain/anguish or a sick bed. He is going to deal extremely harshly with all of them that engage in sexual filthiness, such as being thrown out of a tower head first (how Jezebel was killed). Their time is coming. He is not going to wink at their transgression forever. The judge is at the door! The tribulation they are going to receive will be massive, numerous, large and abundant in nature. In addition to the number being large, it is also going to be severe, including death.



- **I Will Kill Her (Jezebel's) Children with Death and All the Churches Shall Know That I am He Which Searcheth the Reins and Hearts** – This verse is aimed at Jezebel's offspring and those begotten of her. "I will kill her children with death" refers to the second death, hell – where there is no reprieve, no time off, no hope of future life – only everlasting shame and contempt. The purpose is to openly put fear in the other Churches.

So, why is it important for Christ to kill her children? You find the answer in 2 Chronicles 21:4-6. Jehoram, King of Judah took to wife Athaliah, the daughter of King Ahab (King of Israel) and Jezebel. And, how did that go? Did Jehoram follow the LORD like his father Jehoshaphat? No he didn't. He did evil in the sight of the Lord because Athaliah, his filthy wife, moved him to do so. Athaliah convinced Jehoram to murder all his brethren and so introduced the heathen murderous ways of Zidon and Israel to Judah and their filthy gods. And, when Jehoram was dead and her son Ahaziah was dead, Athaliah then slew all of Ahaziah's children that she could find (she

missed one), her own grandchildren. One of our members thinks she did it to disprove the prophesy that the line of Christ would always come through King David. This is the daughter of Jezebel! Now, you see why a sovereign God would want to kill her children with death! If you keep the children of Jezebel around and alive they will do great damage to the people of God and the Church. Below is a chart showing the evil influence of Queen Jezebel over both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms.

JEZEBELS' REIGN OVER BOTH ISRAEL AND JUDAH

KINGS OF ISRAEL (34 years)	KINGS OF JUDAH (19 years)
<p><u>KING AHAB & JEZEBEL (21 YEARS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prophets of God murdered by Jezebel (1 Kings 18:4) - Naboth and his sons murdered by Jezebel (1 Kings 21) - Ahab and Jezebel served Baal <p>- Son = Ahaziah; Daughter = Athaliah; - Son = Jehoram</p>	<p><u>KING JEHOSEPHAT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Son = Jehoram (Joram)
<p><u>KING AHAZIAH (2 YEARS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He served Baal (1 Kings 22:53) - Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber; Elijah told Ahaziah's messengers he would die and he did (2 Kings 1:2-4; 1:17). Ahaziah sent captains (50 men) to take and kill Elijah and fire came down from heaven and destroyed 2 sets of the 50. - He went to war along with King Joram (Israel) against Syria at Ramothgilead and King Joram was wounded (2 Chronicles 22:5). 	<p><u>KING JEHOSEPHAT & ATHALIAH (12 YEARS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jehoram murdered all his brethren at Athaliah's bidding (2 Chronicles 2:4) - Elijah tells him his bowels will be diseased and will fall out and he will be dead (occurs over 2 painful years) (2 Chronicles 2:21). <p>- Son = Ahaziah</p>
<p><u>KING JORAM (JEHORAM) (11 YEARS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Son of Ahab - Joram goes to Ramothgilead and gets wounds. He is visited by King Ahaziah, because he is sick and Jehu slays them both (2 Chronicles 22:8) 	<p><u>KING AHAZIAH (1 YEAR)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - His mother (Athaliah) was his counselor (2 Chronicles 22:3) - Jehu slays him (2 Chronicles 22:8).
<p><u>King Jehu</u></p>	<p><u>QUEEN ATHALIAH (6 YEARS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Murdered the royal seed (except for Joash, who was hidden) 2 Kings 11:1. - She reigns 6 years

- **I Will Give unto Every One of you According to Your Works** - Make no mistake about it “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” 2 Cor 5:10. Christ makes it clear that every person will reap what they sow. “For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” Gal. 6:8.



- **Unto the Rest in Thyatira, As Many as Have Not This Doctrine, and Which Have Not Known the Depths of Satan, as They Speak; I Will Put Upon You None Other Burden, But That Which ye Have Already; Hold Fast Till I Come** - The Lord Jesus Christ now addresses those good figs in the Church at Thyatira that

had not accepted or given credence to the doctrines of Jezebel which had been introduced subtly into that church. Christ refers to these abominable doctrines of fornication and idol worship as being the depths of Satan. They are what they are – Satanical delusions and devices that are diabolical. What wonderful language! We must keep our garments clean from the depths of Satan! God Almighty puts no other burden on us but to keep ourselves from this kind of filthiness, to protest it when we see it and to hold fast till Christ comes!

- **And He That Overcometh, and Keepeth My Works Unto the End, I Will Give Power Over the Nations and He Shall Rule Them With a Rod of Iron; as the Vessels of a Potter Shall They be Broken to Shivers: Even as I Have Received of my Father.**

He that overcomes the likes of Jezebel and her children along with those that engage and enable others to commit adultery, fornication and idol worship; and keeps his works (public work of the ministry, private works of faith and obedience and the fruits of the spirit) until either death or the Day of Judgment; wonderful things will be imparted to him! The words “give power” literally mean “authority.” The Lord Jesus Christ will give the saints of God authority over the nations and over the whole earth! They will rule with Christ from the throne of judgment and judge, condemn and punish the enemies of Christ and the Church.



Ruling them with a rod or scepter of iron is akin to Psalm 2:9 "Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." The scepter or rod of iron is what is used to beat others and represent rigorous rule. Our great Messiah will rule the nations with great strength and domination. He will not be opposed and all people will be in subjection to Him. Any power that would arise to oppose His

rule or His government will be utterly destroyed because of their failure to conform to the design of God.



■ **And I Will Give Him the Morning Star –**

Christ Jesus is called the bright and morning star in Revelation 22:16: "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star". The gross darkness of this world (Isa 60:2) shall be replaced by the bright and morning star

which will shine forth over the whole world. Christ will bring the perfection of light into our souls! What a wonderful gift. The planet Venus is sometimes called the "morning star" because it appears quite bright at the first morning light during some times of the year. Venus pales in comparison to the true Morning Star. The light of Christ is the ultimate power and light in the universe and he will be given to his bride!

VI. CHURCH #5 - CHURCH AT SARDIS



A. Sardis the City

Sardis was an ancient city that dates back to 1300 BC. The Persians conquered Sardis in 545 BC. It was also the capital of the Lydian Empire in the 7th century BC. At the time of John it was a city of Asia Minor. Like Ephesus, Sardis had a temple of Artemis (known as Diana of the Ephesians by the Romans). There may be some allusion in the name of the city to the precious stone "sarda", which some say was found about Sardis. This is the same as the Sardian stone in

Rev. 4:3 and 21:20. This stone, naturalists say, drives away fear, gives boldness, cheerfulness, and sharpness of wit, and frees from witchcrafts and sorceries.

B. Revelation 3:1-6

1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.
 2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.
 3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.
 4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.
 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.
 6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

C. Analysis

THE CHURCH OF SARDIS

Positives of the Church	Negatives of the Church	What Christ Commands the Church to do
■ Their works	■ That thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.	■ Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die:
	■ If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.	■ Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.
	■ Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.	



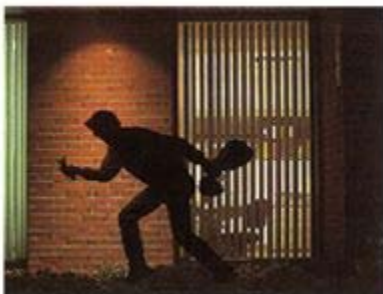
- **That thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead** – The Church at Sardis made a profession of faith, but it was in name only for most of the congregation. They were not what they purported to be or what their reputation was in days gone by. The greater part of the members of the church at Sardis were dead in trespasses and sins; and dead in the exercise of grace and in

the discharge of their duties. They were under great spiritual decay, just as if they were ready to die. Only a few were alive in a spiritual sense. They had a form of godliness, but not the power (2 Tim. 3:5). Their pastor was spiritually dead, their ministry was dead, their praying was dead, their conversations were dead and having found a spiritually dead church the Lord is ready to remove the candlestick. Brother James warns about this in James 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”



- **Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God** - The Lord Jesus Christ admonishes the church at Sardis to be watchful and immediately strengthen and reinforce the good works they had done in the past (and the little good works and

good people that remained) lest they all be dead and completely extinct. Whatever the current works of the Church were, they were nearly spiritually lifeless and were hollow and empty. The Church was on life support and ready to pass away unless swift and immediate action was taken. The language of the text suggests that they “were about to die” or “ready to die”. The few that were walking right must take action to rebuke and convince the majority to repent lest the candlestick be removed; and not give in to the majority to walk with them. The Church at Sardis, unlike the Church at Philadelphia was without strength. The members were spiritually sick, faint and dying, and nearly ready to be buried. The Church needed immediate reform.



- **Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee** – The Church at Sardis received great blessing, light and words from the Holy Spirit at its beginning. This was such a

great and precious blessing, but now there are some that despise the light they had, they hold it in light esteem and they are ready to sell it for a mess of pottage. The Lord Jesus is instructing them to remember those times and take them to heart and change their behavior and do right. This is along the same lines as the Church at Ephesus who had left their first love. The state of the Church at Sardis is that it is likely that they will not heed Christ's warning to leave their gross sin and error, therefore he tells them what he will do if they do not what he bids them. This is the only warning they will get, no more after this – just quick destruction when he comes back.



- **Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; They shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment -** Some say the word “names” is persons or souls – thou hast a few persons (souls) even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments. Even in this polluted place, the Lord had a few that still yearned and walked after him. There is no “slipping into the kingdom.” The Lord Jesus Christ knows exactly what is going on in his Churches – who is saved and who is not; whose deeds and garments are pure and whose deeds and garments are defiled. You either have a proper wedding garment on or you do not (Matthew 22:11-12). And, these few persons are in fact known by their names to God Almighty and the Lord Jesus Christ. Their names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Here is what Gill says:

“God will have a few in whom he will be glorified in the most declining times; and the Lord knows and takes notice of these few; and for their sake the church state is kept up, the Gospel and its ordinances are continued; nor is a church to be judged of by the number of its members, nor is a multitude to be followed to do evil.”

These few were not defiled by filthy practices. They worked hard to keep their behavior obedient to Christ Jesus, even when others did not. They did not

embrace false doctrines, immoral practices or spiritual fornication. If they continue in this way, Christ promises to walk with these souls in shining robes of immortality and glory and/or fine pure linen, clean and white, the righteousness of the saints. Nothing defiled can enter the heavenly city!



■ **I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels** – The Book of Life is the official registry of heaven. If you are to gain entrance to heaven and to everlasting life, your name must be recorded here as an heir of the heavenly city and the blood

of the Lamb. On the Great Day of Judgment this blessed registry will be consulted. To those that overcome the Lord Jesus will not blot out his or her name, but He will give testimony of praise for us before God Almighty and the angels and acknowledge that we are His followers and that he owns our sins! For those whose names are written, their names can never be blotted out because the love of God is unchanging - the same yesterday, today and forever. The reference to blotting out comes from such places as: Ex 32:33 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book”; De 9:14 “Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven”; and Ps 51:9 “Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.”

VII. CHURCH #6 - CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA

A. Philadelphia the City

The city of Philadelphia was established in 189 B.C. by King Eumenes II of Pergamon. Eumenes II named the city for the love of his brother, who would be his successor, Attalus II, whose loyalty earned him the nickname, "Philadelphos", literally meaning "one who loves his brother". Philadelphia was part of the Lydian Empire (see Church of Sardis). The city was relatively young (300 years at John's writing) as opposed to the other cities which were much older. The city was about 28 miles southeast from Sardis. In New Testament times,



Philadelphia was part of the Roman province of Asia Minor. The town was devastated by an earthquake in A.D. 17. Philadelphia was rebuilt with help from the emperor Tiberius. When William Penn received his charter for Pennsylvania from Charles II of England he named the City of Philadelphia (meaning "brotherly love") after the city in Revelation 3. Penn had experienced religious persecution and wanted his colony to be a place where anyone could worship freely despite their religion. It was Penn's

prayer that his "Holy Experiment" (the City of Philadelphia) would be found blameless at the Last Judgment. Fat chance. It is no mistake that this wonderful little church in Revelation was named for "brotherly love." Surely, this little church had wonderful brotherly love among its members.

B. Revelation 3:7-13

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

C. Analysis

THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

Positives of the Church	Negatives of the Church	What Christ Commands the Church to do
■ Their works		■ Be watchful
■ Their little strength		■ Overcome
■ They Kept the Word of His Patience		
■ They did not deny his name		

- **And To The Angel Of The Church In Philadelphia Write; These Things Saith He That Is Holy, He That Is True, He That Hath The Key Of David, He That Openeth, And No Man Shutteth; And Shutteth, And No Man Openeth** - Christ mentions David, because he was a type of Christ; and because from him Christ came according to the flesh, and whose throne he was to sit upon, in a spiritual sense.



The Lord Jesus Christ has free and unrestrained power and control to admit or exclude anyone he wants into the Kingdom of Heaven! He can prescribe the terms; he can invite whom he chooses; he can exclude those whom he judges should not be admitted. Here is what the expositors say. "Christ opens the door of the church, which is himself, and lets in his sheep; and he opens the door of heaven by his blood and righteousness, and gives his people liberty and boldness to enter into the holiest of all, and brings sons to glory in spite of all the opposition of men and devils. He opens a door of uncommon opportunity of preaching the Gospel; he opens a door of utterance to his ministers; he opens a door of entrance, opens the heart; and, he opens a door of admission into the visible church."



On the other hand, when he pleases, He shuts up the Scriptures, and the eyes of men from seeing what is in them; he shuts up the door of the Gospel, and forbids the preaching of it in this and that place; and the door of heaven will be shut by him at the last day, when all called to the marriage of the Lamb have entered. When he pleases, he shuts the door of opportunity and the door of utterance, and leaves obstinate sinners shut up in the hardness of their hearts; he shuts the door of church – fellowship against unbelievers and profane persons; and he shuts the door of heaven against the foolish virgins who have slept away their day of grace, and against the



workers of iniquity, how vain and confident soever they may be. This shows the sovereignty, power, and authority of Christ, which he will exercise in this church state.

- **I Know Thy Works: Behold, I Have Set Before Thee An Open Door, And No Man Can Shut It: For Thou Hast A Little Strength, And Hast Kept My Word, And Hast Not Denied My Name.**



As with the Church at Ephesus the Lord Jesus Christ knows the works of His churches. Nothing escapes his watchful and attentive eye. He knows what we do. Then, Christ says, “Behold! I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it.” Four times when talking to the Church at Philadelphia, the Lord Jesus Christ says “Behold!” This is an exclamation and a note of attention that something amazing, astonishing and remarkable is about to follow.

The Lord Jesus Christ has opened wide the door of this world for His church to go forth and preach boldly before their generation. He is giving His Church wide access, no restraint and unlimited privileges to preach His word and loudly proclaim His name throughout the whole world. No man can prevent or hinder this door from being kept wide open for this Church. No man or device of Satan has the power of preventing this, for He who has control over all things concedes these privileges to His Churches. “For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries” 1 Cor 16:9. “[T]he gates of hell shall not prevail against” the church. Matthew 16:18. The Lord Jesus Christ has thrown open the doors for us and he has our back! Once we walk through the door, no power in earth or heaven is going to be able to shut it! So, there is no reason for the Church not to be bold, no reason for the true Church to be lukewarm!



The Church at Philadelphia had “a little strength.” Gill says this does not refer to inward spiritual strength, for the church had a great deal of this, as well as of courage and fortitude of mind; but refers to outward power and authority. Also, in their own eyes they had a little strength and they were small in numbers and external resources. They had this little strength to do good in the midst of great obstacles to their

good works, and great temptations to do evil like those all around them. See Matthew 24:24 “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” The Blessed Saviour saw signs of spiritual life in this Church – this is remarkable given the state of the world and the state of the other Churches which he had something against.

The Church at Philadelphia had not denied Christ's name. Gill says the Church had not denied the commands and ordinances of Christ in practice. They preached, professed, and defended these doctrines of the Gospel, in a public and open way. This little Church had living stones that would not succumb to the pressures of Satan and the cares of this life. Through Christ they would not allow the gates of hell to prevail against God. They held forth in a public way and said right about Christ and his doctrines when all others denied Him. When the members of that little church at Philadelphia were summoned to the courts and the judges and put on trial for their religion they stood the firm would not yield! Who does that sound like? Who has been put on trial for their religion and who refused to yield? The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ does not apologize for God's judgments and God's words! The Church has not denied Christ's doctrine respecting his person, office, and grace, neither in words, nor in works, but both ways confessed and owned it.

■ **Behold, I Will Make Them Of The Synagogue Of Satan, Which Say They Are Jews, And Are Not, But Do Lie; Behold, I Will Make Them To Come And Worship Before Thy Feet, And To Know That I Have Loved Thee.**

At the time of the Church at Philadelphia there were people who held themselves out as Jews and had Jewish heritage and worshipped as Jews in their religious practices but who were in fact Satanic followers, believing and doing the active work of Satan on the earth. The Jews were pretenders (and mere “professors” of God) – pretending to be of God but actually being of Satan. The Lord Jesus Christ says they were of the synagogue of Satan and that they were liars. That is, they were not true Jews inwardly. Paul addresses this issue in Romans 2:28-29 – “For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.” The Lord Jesus Christ is no mealy mouth. There is no “God loves everyone” here or anywhere else. The Lord's words are plain – these that say they are Jews are not, they are of Satan and they are liars. That sounds like the Lord Jesus Christ on his throne is doing a little name calling – or that it was just a fact. And, Christ says that these people will come before the members of that little Church and show them honor and respect and bow down to them. They will understand that God Almighty regards the people in that little Church as in His favor and that He loves them with an everlasting love and that those so-called Jews have spoken against His people.



These Jews are most likely the 144,000 Jews mentioned in Revelation 7. Gill says “the sense is, that the convinced and converted Jews shall come to the church, and in the most lowly and contrite manner acknowledge their former blindness, furious zeal, and violent hatred of the Christians, and shall profess their faith in Christ; shall

join themselves to the church, and partake of the ordinances of the Gospel with them; and shall worship God and Jesus Christ, their Lord and King, in their presence, and at their feet.” Jamieson Fausset and Brown says “the promise to Philadelphia is larger than that to Smyrna. To Smyrna the promise was that “the synagogue of Satan” should not prevail against the faithful in her: to Philadelphia, that she should even win over some of “the synagogue of Satan” to fall on their faces and confess God is in her of a truth.” The Lord Jesus Christ has the power and ability to convert those that are of Satan and enemies of God to Him, but only if He chooses.

■ **Because Thou Hast Kept The Word Of My Patience, I Also Will Keep Thee From The Hour Of Temptation, Which Shall Come Upon All The World, To Try Them That Dwell Upon The Earth.**

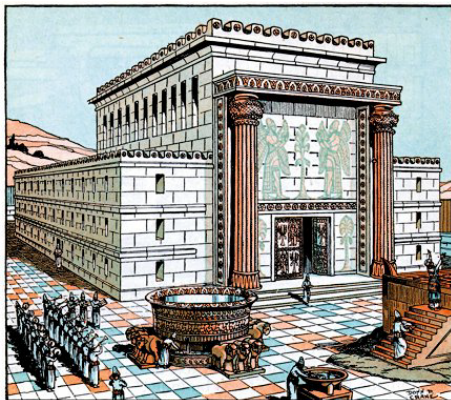
The Church at Philadelphia had suffered many grievous trials and persecutions and had kept Christ’s word faithfully and patiently. The literal meaning of the word patience is “endurance.” They had “endured hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Tim 2:3) and been of the “**good ground**” (parable of the seed and the sower) with “**an honest and good heart**”, having heard the word they kept it, and brought “**forth fruit with patience**” (Luke 8:15). Christ on the earth was the model of patience. Patience in this context is enduring afflictions, reproaches, persecutions, desertions, and temptations, and patiently waiting for Christ’s kingdom and glory. Christ promises now, that in return He will keep them when the appointed hour of great temptations and trials shall come upon the world. This is the time the sheep are separated by the goats as it were. These trials will be severe and hot and will probably be at the time of the Beast. Gill says “Christ will now have his fan in his hand, and purge his floor of all his formal professors and hypocrites; and it will be known who are his true churches, and pure members; and these he will keep close to himself, and preserve safe amidst all the distress and confusion the world will be in.” The Lord Jesus Christ is going to try the world – this is the proving ground! Christ said “**And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities**” (Luke 19:17).

- **Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Behold** (and don't forget!) the Lord is coming quickly in power and glory



to gather up his jewels (Mal. 3:17). The Church is warned to hold fast the little bit of righteousness that they have and endure! Satan is raging – he is roaring, he is a devouring lion with no mercy. He is completely consumed in bloodthirsty lust against Christ and His Church. He is trying at all cost to take the crowns of God's elect. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" 2Tim 4:8. The warning is that if we let our guard down Satan will steal our crown. As described in *Barnes Notes*: "We need to be on our constant guard, that, in a world of temptation, where the enemies of truth abound, we may not be robbed of the crown that we might have worn for ever."

- **Him That Overcometh Will I Make A Pillar In The Temple Of My God, And He Shall Go No More Out:**



Christ tells the church that if they overcome and endure to the end, the glories they will receive. He tells them this to comfort them and to let them know their work is not for naught. Christ promises that He will make these blessed people in this little church pillars in the temple of God in Heaven. This is a reference to the two pillars in Solomon's Temple, Boaz (that is, "In it is strength") and Jachin ("It shall be established"). Pillars are what holds up a building. They are inseparable from the building, necessary and central to the structure. This is a prize like no other on earth or heaven and the prize lasts forever and it is eternal bliss to never have to go out from the temple of God where God's presence is. How glorious and wonderful! The door shall be once and for all shut. The elect will be shut safely within Heaven's door and the lost forever shut out! Christ tells the Church at Philadelphia that the welfare of their souls will no longer be in peril.

They will never be in danger of falling into temptation. No crafty, deceitful enemy shall ever have power to disenfranchise us from God. He tells them that when they reach the heavenly world, their conflicts will be over and their doubts will be over. As soon as they cross the threshold they shall be greeted with the assurance, "he shall go no more out for ever."

■ I Will Write Upon Him The Name Of My God, And The Name Of The City Of My God, Which Is New Jerusalem, Which Cometh Down Out Of Heaven From My God: And I Will Write Upon Him My New Name.

Barnes says the name of God would be conspicuously recorded on him to show that he belonged to God. The allusion is to a public edifice on the columns of which the names of distinguished and honoured persons were recorded; that is, where there was a public testimonial of the respect in which one whose name was thus recorded was held. The honour thus conferred on him "who should overcome" would be as great as if the name of that God whom he served, and whose favour and friendship he enjoyed, were inscribed on him in some conspicuous manner. The meaning is, that he would be known and recognized as belonging to God; the God of the Redeemer himself— indicated by the phrase "the name of my God." What a wonderful thought, to belong to God, and for God not to abhorred by you and your sinful state. Can there be anything better in the universe than this? Christ will also write upon them the name of the city of God - indicating that they belong to that city. They will have all the rights and privileges of citizenship to that blessed city - the New Jerusalem - the city of His habitation. Wherever they go they will be instantly recognized as belonging to that holy city.

VIII. CHURCH #7 - CHURCH IN LAODICEA

A. The City of Laodicea



The Stadium at Laodicea

Laodicea was founded by the Seleucid king Antiochus II and named for his wife Laodice about 260 B.C. During Roman times Laodicea was a prosperous market town on the trade route from the East, famous for its woolen and cotton cloths. The city included a stadium that was

primarily used for running races.

Interestingly, Laodicea was a primary hub for the Roman aqueduct



system. The water that was piped to Laodicea was rich with calcium which over time would cause the pipes to clog. The engineers designed the aqueduct with vents covered with stones that could be removed periodically for cleaning. Laodicea was a few miles from hot calcium waters. When the hot water finally reached Laodicea the water would arrive

lukewarm, and would then need to be reheated. This is why John uses the allusion to "lukewarm." At one time, there was a thriving Church there as Paul references it several times in Col. 2:1, 4:13-16, 1 Tim. 6:21. Laodicea was just a few miles from Colosse (Letter to the Collosians). The city also appears to have been a center of banking and financial institutions, being a place where money-changing was common practice. It minted its own coins a number of centuries before the first century AD due to its wealth. Christ also mentions the wealth of the church, so this may be a reference to that as well.

B. Revelation 3:14-22

14 ¶ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

C. Analysis

THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA

Positives of the Church	Negatives of the Church	What Christ Commands the Church to do
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ be zealous therefore, and repent.

	that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:	
		■ Hear His voice and open the door
		■ Overcome

■ **I Know Thy Works, That Thou Art Neither Cold Nor Hot: I Would Thou Wert Cold Or Hot. So Then Because Thou Art Lukewarm, And Neither Cold Nor Hot, I Will Spue Thee Out Of My Mouth.**

The Lord Jesus Christ knows the works of the Churches in all respects.



“Lukewarm” is figurative language to indicate that the Church at Laodicea had a profession of religion but there was no zeal for God. They did not put themselves in harm’s way or put themselves out in any regard. They were indifferent to God and his commandments, indifferent to His truths and ways, and indifferent to sin. They were without true

spiritual affection for Christ. They thought they were playing it safe! The concept is shown by the Savior’s words in Mark 8:35 – **“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it.”**

Most of the churches in this nation are completely indifferent to sin and are “saving their life.” They are the picture of wimpy, soft, milquetoast cowards



who straddle the fence. Gill says: “A lukewarm professor is one that serves God and mammon (money); that halts between two opinions, and knows not what religion is best, ... he is unconcerned about the life and power of godliness, and takes up with the external form of it; and has no thought about the glory of God, the interest of Christ and truth; and this was too much the case of this church, at least of a great number of its members; wherefore it was very

loathsome to Christ.” The Lord Jesus Christ says that it would actually be better if the church was either cold or hot as if to say “anything is better than being weak and lukewarm.” This shows the Lord Jesus’ utter contempt and detestation for this condition. The Savior in essence argues that it would actually be better if the church was cold and actually against him. Coldness would be preferred because at least it would be honest and there would no concealment, deceit, insincerity and hypocrisy. The Lord Jesus Christ says

that he is going to spew and vomit out lukewarm churches. Christ rejects lukewarm churches with righteous loathing, as the Lord God spued out the Canaanite nations from the promised land (Lev. 18:28).

■ **Because Thou Sayest, I Am Rich, And Increased With Goods, And Have Need Of Nothing; And Knowest Not That Thou Art Wretched, And Miserable, And Poor, And Blind, And Naked:**



There is no doubt that there was much wealth in Laodicea, and that, as a people, they prided themselves on their riches. Those that are wealthy in the riches of this world are likely to be lukewarm and complacent in a spiritual sense thinking their worldly goods will save them in the next life. The members of this church were puffed up with pride and arrogance and had created their own form of righteousness. Romans 10:2-3 For I bear them record that they

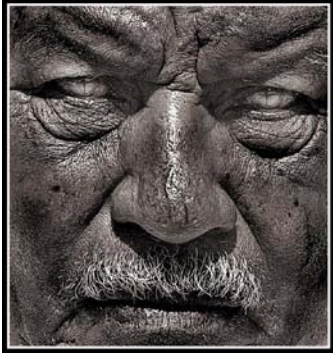
have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. Pr 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. Pr 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Mal 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. Jas 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

The Laodiceans were so prideful, egotistical and haughty that according to the Savior they said in their hearts that they "had need of nothing." This is the picture of Romans 1. They had exalted themselves about Christ! "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things" Romans 1:21-23.



Notwithstanding all their boasting and marketing, the Savior says that they were 100% wrong. Not only were they not rich, but they were completely and totally destitute. Not only did they not have anything at all of spiritual value, but their souls – the essence

of their being – was wretched (think worms and maggots), blind (no spiritual sight at all). In a true and spiritual sense their souls were poor, that is destitute – having nothing of value. Their spiritual condition was miserable (just waiting for hell).



They were also blind, with no spiritual sight at all. They were walking toward a cliff and they could not see it. They did not see the reality of their condition; they had no clear view of themselves, of the character of God, of the way of salvation. And, while they certainly had gorgeous and luxurious robes and outward earthly apparel, they were spiritually naked and bare. They had nothing to cover the nakedness and sinfulness of the soul, and in respect to the real wants of their nature they were like one who had no clothing in reference to cold, and heat, and storms, and to the shame of nakedness. “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away” Isa 64:6. **“And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”** Matthew 22:11-13. Sin has stripped man of his moral clothing; man’s own righteousness will not cover his nakedness; and whoever is destitute of the righteousness of Christ is naked and an abhorrence unto God. Isa 66:24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.



The word picture the Lord Jesus Christ paints is the picture of a walking dead man. Barnes says “Their worldly property could not meet the wants of their souls; and, with all their pretensions to piety, they had not religion enough to meet the necessities of their nature when calamities should come, or when death should approach; and they were, therefore, in the strictest sense of the term, poor” and wretched and miserable. Their true state in the eyes of God is He views them as totally disgusting and sinful, deserving wrath, in danger of hell and destruction, lost and undone, and unable to extricate themselves out of such a state.

- **I Counsel Thee To Buy Of Me Gold Tried In The Fire, That Thou Mayest Be Rich; And White Raiment, That Thou Mayest Be Clothed, And That The Shame Of Thy Nakedness Do Not Appear; And Anoint Thine Eyes With Eyesalve, That Thou Mayest See.**



The gold here is pure and unadulterated gold. It is true and pure religious obedience to God. It is following God in spirit and truth, fearing him and keeping his commandments. With true spirituality they will obtain the favor and friendship of the Redeemer and in fact be spiritually rich. When this occurs, God will clothe them with white raiment. It represents purity, heavenly glory, and robes of immortality. He will give them salvation to cover their sins. Once properly covered their sins will be remembered no more and their shame will be forgotten and they will not be abhorrent or offensive to God. They will be clothed with a proper wedding garment. Their spiritual eyes will be restored and given to them. They will receive spiritual healing.

- **As Many As I Love, I Rebuke And Chasten: Be Zealous Therefore, And Repent.**

This rebuke and chastening is the same as when a father rebukes a disobedient child. It is done with care and with the child's best intention in mind. The Savior rebukes the church to be zealous therefore, and repent. The reproof is for the members to ask for true repentance, and to turn from the error of their ways. The thought is that they should lose no time or spare no labour, and move quickly and diligently to correct their sinful ways. Severe discipline always comes when lukewarm religion is found. He bids them to be zealous – that is to seek repentance with hot, fervent, and ardent love – not in a lukewarm fashion. He tells them to be zealous of good works, and in the worship of God, both private and public; and "repent"; in an evangelical way, of her lukewarmness, remissness, and supineness; of her pride, arrogance, and vain boastings of herself; and of her self-sufficiency, self-dependence, and self-confidence.

- **Behold, I Stand At The Door, And Knock: If Any Man Hear My Voice, And Open The Door, I Will Come In To Him, And Will Sup With Him, And He With Me.**

The Savior says that he stands at the door and knocks. This is a reference to James 5:9 "**Behold**, the judge standeth before the door." This is expressive of the near approach, or sudden coming of Christ to judgment. Barnes says "The knocking signifies the notice that will be given of it, by some of the immediate forerunners and signs of his coming; which yet will be observed but by a few, such a general sleepiness will have seized all professors of religion; and

particularly may intend the midnight cry, which will, in its issue, rouse them all.” And, “if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him” – this reference to opening the door means to show a readiness for the coming of Christ, including looking and waiting for it, and be like such that will receive him with a welcome. Only the sheep of God will hear his voice. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27 Christ will then “come unto him, and sup with him.” These souls will be like the wise virgins in Matthew 25:1. They will be watching and ready for his return and run to meet him at his coming. They will have properly prepared themselves and be ready and the Lord Jesus Christ will receive them into the marriage chamber and will sit with him on the Lamb’s throne and he will feed them with the fruit of the tree of life, and lead them to fountains of living water, and his tabernacle shall be among them.

■ **TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH WILL I GRANT TO SIT WITH ME IN MY THRONE, EVEN AS I ALSO OVERCAME, AND AM SET DOWN WITH MY FATHER IN HIS THRONE.**



The Elect of God must overcome! They must overcome great obstacles – and they will - because Christ overcame. The Elect will be victorious over Satan and will sit down with God at this throne. As a reward the Elect will be exacted to the throne of the universe and achieve great and glorious honors and enjoy everlasting peace with God.

IX. SUMMARY OF THE 7 CHURCHES

Below is a summary of the lessons learned from words of the Lord Jesus Christ from His throne to the 7 Churches of Asia.

WHAT JESUS CHRIST SAYS IS THE ACCEPTABLE SERVICE IN HIS CHURCHES:

No.	Acceptable Service	Reference	Church	Description
1.	Works	Rev. 2:2, 2:9, 2:13, 2:19, 3:1; 3:8; 3:15	Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ External works: ■ Frequent preaching in season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2); ■ Losing their lives and not saving them (Luke 9:24); ■ Outward struggles with those that would oppose their ministry (2 Tim. 4:14).
2.	Labor	Rev. 2:2	Ephesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Internal labor: ■ Administration of church ordinances; ■ The diligent exercise of church discipline; ■ Praying (Col. 4:12); ■ Studying the Word of God and doctrines of the Church (1 Tim. 5:17).
3.	Patience	Rev. 2:2; 2:3, 2:19	Ephesus, Thyatira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rev. 14:12 "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." ■ Patience and perseverance in suffering reproaches from the masses; patience in suffering persecutions for the sake of the Gospel and for professing the Gospel which they bore patiently, cheerfully, and

				constantly; patience in bearing the infirmities of weak saints and in reclaiming and restoring persons out of the way.
4.	Cannot bear them which are evil	Rev. 2:2	Ephesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ They abhorred and detested people that insisted on living immoral lives and holding to erroneous doctrines. ■ They admonished people with immoral practices according to the nature of their offence, and cast out such as were obstinate and incorrigible. ■ They withdrew and rejected heretics. ■ They refused to bear up people that violated all the commandments of God.
5.	Tried them which say they are apostles and are not, and found them to be liars	Rev. 2:2	Ephesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ They constantly evaluate everyone they come in contact with against the standards and commandments of God! They try and examine each person, by closely observing their behavior and listening carefully to their words. See Jude 4.
6.	Hast borne	Rev. 2:3	Ephesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To happily carry afflictions, reproaches, and persecutions for Christ's sake and to resist Satan and sin.
7.	For my name's sake hast labored	Rev. 2:3	Ephesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ See #2 above.
8.	Not fainted	Rev. 2:3	Ephesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ They did not faint or sink under the tremendous pressure they bore because of their faithful service to Christ or due to their unwavering devotion to the commandments.
9.	Hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ They HATED the deeds of the Nicolaitans: filthy and impure practices including fornication, adultery, and all sexual uncleanness.

10. Overcome	Rev. 2:7, Rev. 2:11	Ephesus, Smyrna	■ To prevail in spite of great obstacles.
11. Tribulation	Rev. 2:9	Smyrna	■ Afflictions, anguish, persecutions, distress, oppression and straits. It means pressure or a “pressing together” for the purpose of breaking. Tribulation is Christ’s legacy to his people and it is their way to heaven. The servant is not greater than the master.
12. Poverty (but thou art rich)	Rev. 2:9	Smyrna	■ Financial wealth is not the goal of Christ’s Church. Take joyfully the spoiling of your goods. Heb. 10:34. Can you say \$10.9 million?
13. Suffered blasphemy from those which said they were Jews but were actually of the synagogue of Satan.	Rev. 2:9	Smyrna	■ Maliciously slandered by an assembly or congregation of evil Jews that were energized by Satan to be an enemy of the Church of God. They were Jews by national descent but were not spiritual Jews (Rom. 2:28-29).
14. Devil casting them in prison (to be tried)	Rev. 2:10	Smyrna	■ Satan energizes his minions on earth to persecute the Church, including casting the righteous into prison. Does your Church have those that went to prison or jail for their preaching?
15. Death	Rev. 2:10	Smyrna	■ Satan persecutes the Church unto death. Is the servant greater than the master? “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” Mat. 10:28.

16. Holdest fast my name (where Satan's seat is and where Satan dwellest)	Rev. 2:13	Pergamos	■ To not compromise or be ashamed in any way of the doctrines or commandments of God, even when the strength of Satan presses hard.
17. Not denied my faith	Rev. 2:13, 2:19	Pergamos	■ See #16 – hold fast.
18. Martyred	Rev. 2:13	Pergamos	■ See death #15.
19. Charity	Rev. 2:19	Thyatira	■ Charity toward the Saints of God to help them that are mightily oppressed.
20. Service	Rev. 2:19	Thyatira	■ Preaching or public ministry.
21. Last works to be more than the first	Rev. 2:19	Thyatira	■ Their fruits of righteousness are better in quality, quantity, and maturity from when they first believed.
22. Thou hast a little strength	Rev. 3:8	Philadelphia	■ Under great weight and affliction they had not only not surrendered but they had some little strength to hold on and to overcome.
23. Kept my word	Rev. 3:8	Philadelphia	■ See #16.
24. Not denied my name	Rev. 3:8	Philadelphia	■ See #16.
25. Hast kept the word of my patience	Rev. 3:10	Philadelphia	■ See #3.

WHAT JESUS CHRIST SAYS IS UNACCEPTABLE SERVICE IN HIS CHURCHES: (“I HAVE SOMETHING SOMEWHAT AGAINST THEE”)

No.	Unacceptable Service	Reference	Church	Description
1.	Left thy first love	Rev. 2:4	Ephesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They no longer had an unfeigned love of the brethren and they lost their zeal and devotion to Christ. They love for Christ had wained.
2.	Hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication	Rev. 2:14	Pergamos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had members that committed sexual fornication (premarital sex); had members that engaged in spiritual fornication and corrupted the true worship of Christ and God with in false religious systems; like Baalam went after a false religious system for money
3.	Hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans	Rev. 2:15	Pergamos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nicolaitans were reputed to engage in fornication, adultery, wife swapping, other sexual indulgences and the priests lording it over the parishioners.
4.	Sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach	Rev. 2:20	Thyatira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woman in the church that taught a false religious system.
5.	Sufferest that woman Jezebel... to seduce my servants to commit fornication... and I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.	Rev. 2:20, 21	Thyatira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fornication Idol worship Murder Spiritual fornication Worshipping false religious systems
6.	Sufferest that woman Jezebel... to eat things sacrificed unto idols.	Rev. 2:20	Thyatira	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
7.	Adultery	Rev. 2:22	Thyatira	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marriage, divorce and remarriage
8.	I have not found thy works perfect before God	Rev 3:2	Sardis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
9.	Being lukewarm	Rev. 3:15-16	Laodicea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indifference, wimpy, soft, milquetoast religion
10.	Rich, arrogant, conceited, egotistical, and haughty. “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”	Rev. 3:17	Laodicea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

What Christ Commands the Churches in Danger of Losing Their Candlestick to Do

No.	Reference	Church	Description
1.	Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen.	Rev. 2:5	Ephesus
2.	Repent	Rev. 2:5, 2:16	Ephesus, Pergamos
3.	Do thy first works.	Rev. 2:5	Ephesus
4.	Overcome	Rev. 2:17	Pergamos
5.	Hold fast	Rev. 2:25	Thyatira
6.	Keepeth my works to the end	Rev. 2:26	Thyatira
7.	Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain.	Rev. 3:2	Sardis
8.	Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.	Rev. 3:3	Sardis
9.	Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.	Rev. 3:11	Philadelphia
10.	I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.	Rev. 3:18	Laodicea
11.	Be zealous therefore, and repent	Rev. 3:19	Laodicea

What Christ Commands Will Happen if the Churches Do Not Repent

1.	I have something somewhat (or a few things) against thee.	Rev. 2:4, 2:14, 2:20	Ephesus, Pergamos, Thyatira
2.	I will come unto thee quickly.	Rev. 2:5, 2:16; 3:11	Ephesus, Pergamos, Philadelphia
3.	I will remove thy candlestick out of the place.	Rev. 2:5	Ephesus
4.	I will fight against you with the sword of my mouth.	Rev. 2:16	Pergamos
5.	Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery into great tribulation.	Rev. 2:22	Thyatira
6.	I will kill her children with death.	Rev. 2:23	Thyatira
7.	I will give unto every one of you according to your works.	Rev. 2:23	Thyatira
8.	I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.	Rev. 3:3	Sardis
9.	I will spue thee out of my mouth.	Rev. 3:16	Laodicea

What Christ Promises to Them That Overcome

No.	Reference	Church	Description
1.	Rev 2:7	Ephesus	Eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.
2.	Rev 2:10	Smyrna	A crown of life.
3.	Rev 2:11	Smyrna	Shall not be hurt by the second death.
4.	Rev. 2:17	Pergamos	Eat of the hidden manna.
5.	Rev. 2:17	Pergamos	A white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.
6.	Rev. 2:26	Thyatira	Power over the nations.
7.	Rev. 2:28	Thyatira	The morning star.
8.	Rev. 3:4	Sardis	Walk with me in white.
9.	Rev. 3:5	Sardis	Clothed in white raiment.
10.	Rev. 3:5	Sardis	I will not blot out his name out of the book of life.
11.	Rev. 3:5	Sardis	I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.
12.	Rev. 3:9	Philadelphia	Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.
13.	Rev. 3:10	Philadelphia	Will keep thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world.
14.	Rev. 3:12	Philadelphia	I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out.
15.	Rev. 3:12	Philadelphia	I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.
16.	Rev. 3:20	Laodicea	I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.
17.	Rev. 3:21	Laodicea	To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne.