

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – CHAPTERS 2 AND 3 - HIS SEVEN LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

CHURCH AND CHARACTER	JESUS' ROLE AS JUDGE	VIRTUES COMMENDED	WEAKNESSES AND SINS REBUKED	THE LORD'S EXHORTATION	PROMISES TO OVERCOMERS	TYPES OF CHURCHES	
						HISTORICAL	CONTEMPORARY
EPHESUS The Orthodox Spiritual Church	Head of the Church 7 stars in his right hand. Walks in midst of 7 Golden Candlesticks (Churches)	Good works, sound doctrine, patience, Church discipline, Steadfastness, Hatred of evil	Fallen from her <u>first love</u>	<u>Repent</u> , or I will come and remove thy Candlestick from its place.	To eat of the Tree of Life – God Himself – in Paradise.	Early Church Age. Started with Pentecost.	Sound orthodox Christian Churches, but lacking in love and spiritual zeal.
SMYRNA “Anointing” the poor, Rich Church	The Fellow-Sufferer He also suffered unto death and now is alive for evermore	Works, Spiritual riches, faithfulness in tribulation	<u>None</u>	<u>Fear not</u> trials and sufferings, but be faithful unto death.	To be given a Crown of Life in first resurrection. Not hurt by second death.	Early centuries of persecution. Thrown to lions, burnt at stake, etc.	Suffering Church under atheistic Communism. Also some Missionary Churches.
PERGAMOS The Church with evil surroundings	The Judge with the sharp two-edged sword	Steadfastness in midst of an evil environment.	Tolerance of corrupt doctrines and heretics – Fornication and Nicolaitans	<u>Repent</u> or I will destroy them with the sword of My mouth.	To eat of hidden manna. Given new name on white stone. (Secret, precious)	Age of Constantine. Union of Church & State. Temporal prosperity.	Liberal Churches – more involved with politics than preaching the gospel.
THYATIRA The Church of the evil prophetess	The All-Seeing Son of God in judgement	Love, service, faith, patience and works; natural more than spiritual	Lax discipline; Tolerance of false prophetess; fornication, condoning idols	Repent or I will kill her children with death and make her shame manifest. <u>Hold Fast</u> to end	Power to rule over nations with rod of iron. “The Morning Star.”	Dark ages of apostasy, tyranny by hierarchy. Persecution and ignorance.	Corrupt Churches. False doctrine, immorality, lack of purity and true love.
SARDIS The dying Church	The 7-fold Anointed Son and Director of the Church	None for majority. A few commended for purity.	Extreme formalism and inactivity. Spiritual death imminent.	<u>Repent</u> , remember, hold fast and watch or I will come on thee as a thief.	To be clothed in white raiment and have name confessed before the Father and Angels of Heaven.	Middle Ages of darkness and bondage to beginning of Reformation.	Ritualised formal Churches. Love of ceremony, but dying spiritually.
PHILADELPHIA “Brotherly Love” The weak but Loyal Church	The True and Holy One with the Key of David that opens and shuts	Works, a little strength. Kept God’s Word; not denied His Name.	<u>None</u>	<u>Hold fast</u> what you have and do not lose your crown.	To be a pillar in Temple of God. Have God’s Name, New Jerusalem and My New Name.	Reformation period. Great evangelical and missionary work. Renewal of faith and holiness by Holy Spirit.	All earnest , spiritual churches.
LAODICEA The rich, poor Church	The Final Arbiter Faithful and True, the Founder of Creation.	<u>None</u>	Lukewarmness, pride, unconscious of need. Spiritually poor, wretched, blind, miserable and naked	<u>Repent</u> , buy of Me, gold, white raiment, anoint thine eyes to see. Open the door to Me or be spewed out of My mouth.	To sit with Me in My Throne.	Since WW I. Falling away.; people complacent, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.	Popular, self-satisfied, worldly Churches.