

jenaministries – Part 2 Following Christ

17. Revelation to Seven Churches

The book of Revelation can be hard to understand. But the angel of Jesus talking to the seven churches in chapter two and three is somewhat straight forward.

John has a vision and sees the angel of Jesus. He is instructed to write everything down.

This is what the angel of Jesus says to each of the seven churches in the province of Asia.

1. To the church in Ephesus (**Scriptures 1: Revelation 2:2-5 To the Church in Ephesus**).

He recognizes their good deeds. However, they had lost the love they had in the beginning. They are advised to repent and to love again like their first love.

2. To the church in Smyrna (**Scriptures 2: Revelation 2:9-10 To the Church in Smyrna**).

Jesus said he knows their afflictions and poverty. But they are rich! He tells them not to be afraid. Some will go to prison and be persecuted. But remain faithful even to death.

3. To the church in Pergamum (**Scriptures 3: Revelation 2:13-16 To the Church in Pergamum**).

Jesus starts by saying he knows that they live in an area where Satan has his throne. Yet they remain true to his name and did not renounce their faith even when faced with death.

But there are those among them that hold to the teaching of foreign gods, who taught Balak and Nicolaitans to the Israelites. This enticed some Israelites to eat food sacrificed to idols and commit sexual immorality. Those Israelites are told to repent.

4. To the church in Thyatira (**Scriptures 4: Revelation 2:19-25 To the Church in Thyatira**).

They do good deeds, with love and faith. They serve and persevere. And they now do more than they did at first.

However, some of them tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads them into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

Jesus explained those that tolerate Jezebel will suffer according to their deeds. But those who do not tolerate her will not be held accountable. They need to hold on to what they have until he comes again.

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5. To the church in Sardis (**Scriptures 5: Revelation 3:1-3 To the Church in Sardis**).

Jesus tells them they have a reputation of being alive, but they are dead. Their deeds are unfinished in the sight of God. He tells them to wake up and strengthen what remains.

If they do not wake up, he will come like a thief. They will not know at what time he will come to them.

6. To the church in Philadelphia (**Scriptures 6: Revelation 3:8-9 To the Church in Philadelphia**).

He knows their deeds. They have little strength, but have kept his word and have not denied his name. He will make those of the synagogue of Satan fall down at their feet and acknowledge that he (Jesus) has loved them.

7. To the church in Laodicea (**Scriptures 7: Revelation 3:15-20 To the Church in Laodicea**).

Jesus tells them they are neither cold nor hot. He wishes they were either one or the other! So, because they are lukewarm, he is about to spit them out of his mouth.

They think they have acquired wealth and do not need a thing. But they do not realize that they are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. He tells them real wealth only comes from him. Jesus rebukes and disciplines those that he loves. They need to repent!

Jesus says to Laodicea, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."

Conclusion:

It almost sounds like he is talking to our churches today. We still have the same issues. It's not unreasonable to say we have sexual immoralities, lukewarm relationships, acting alive but are dead, and false teachings in some of our churches. Sure, there are good churches that follow and don't deny Jesus. Is your church one of them?

To explore this concept more, see Part 2 [H\) To the Seven Churches Bible Study Worksheet](#). And also compare your personal relationship with Jesus with the seven churches'.

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Scriptures 1: Revelation 2:2-5 To the Church in Ephesus

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Scriptures 2: Revelation 2:9-10 To the Church in Smyrna

I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

Scriptures 3: Revelation 2:13-16 To the Church in Pergamum

I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

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Scriptures 4: Revelation 2:19-25 To the Church in Thyatira

I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you, except to hold on to what you have until I come.'

Scriptures 5: Revelation 3:1-3 To the Church in Sardis

I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

Scriptures 6: Revelation 3:8-9 To the Church in Philadelphia

I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

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Scriptures 7: Revelation 3:15-20 To the Church in Laodicea

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.