

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 07 June.....	1John 1
2) 14 June.....	1John 2
3) 21 June.....	1John 3
4) 28 June.....	1John 4
5) 05 July.....	1John 5
6) 12 July.....	2 <sup>nd</sup> John & 3 <sup>rd</sup> John
7) 19 July.....	Rev 1
<b>8) 26 July.....</b>	<b>Rev 2-3</b>
9) 02 August.....	Rev 4-6
10) 09 August.....	Rev 7-13
11) 16 August.....	Rev 14-17
12) 23 August.....	Rev 18
13) 30 August.....	Rev 19-22

**INTRODUCTION**

- We are introduced to 7 churches. Are they typical or a-typical?
- Are they symbolic of successive church ages or are they representative of churches seen throughout all ages?
- Which church best describes our church?
  - ◆ What is broke in our church (or in our own life), if anything?
  - ◆ How do we fix what is broke?
  - ◆ Where and when do we begin to fix what is broke?
  - ◆ Who do we involve?  Church Leadership |  Congregation |  No One |  Keep our heads in the sand & sing Kumbaya
- When is it biblical to leave a church?..... See lesson on [1John 2](#)

Possible Church Age	Historicists believe that each church represents a very specific historical time period
Ephesus AD 33-100	<b>The Apostolic Church.</b> Besides these seven churches, other 1 <sup>st</sup> century churches received accolades from Apostles (e.g., Philippians), while others chastisement (Galatian, Corinthians)
Smyrna 100-312	<b>The Persecuted Church.</b> The Church, at large, was persecuted from the time of Nero until Constantine, who himself became a Christian
Pergamum 312-590	<b>The Compromising Church.</b> The Church indulged some pagan doctrines to make it more attractive
Thyatira 590-1517	<b>The Corrupt Church (aka, the Dark Ages).</b> Doctrines such as praying to saints, excluding lay people from scripture reading, purgatory, worship of images and relics, and other Catholic teachings
Sardis 1517-1750	<b>The Dead Church.</b> The Church (mostly, Roman Catholic) became very political. The Reformation challenged this by inadvertently creating new denominations on an unprecedented scale
Philadelphia 1750-Rapture	<b>The Missionary Church.</b> The printing press put the Bible back into the hands of the people, who then took the Gospel to the ends of the world
Laodicea 1925-Trib.	<b>The Lukewarm Church.</b> The Church has grown wealthy and self-sufficient not needing Christ, and rejecting His doctrines for comfort

Passage	Comments
Rev 2:1-7	<b>1. Ephesus – All Work, No Play .....Grade: C</b> • <b>They left their first love.</b> This church had John, the Apostle of Love as their elder, and undoubtedly, he taught them sound doctrine. How did they go astray? How would they return to their 1 <sup>st</sup> love? What does it mean to have their lampstand removed?
2:8-11	<b>2. Smyrna – Go One Step Further .....Grade: A+</b> • Are we willing to put our jobs or even our lives on the line to be a godly witness and to further the Gospel?
2:12-17	<b>3. Pergamum – Fix What’s Broke .....Grade: C</b> • The church is doing great things for God, BUT a little false doctrine has slipped in. Why is this a problem? • What false teachings should we be alarmed about? • How concerned or militant should we be about legalism, Pentecostalism, prosperity preaching?
2:18-29	<b>4. Thyatira – All Play, No Work .....Grade: C</b> • Jesus spends the most words on this church (12 vvs) • Immorality is running rampant, but there are still the faithful few who hang tough • Immorality in our current age seems to be our Jezebel • How can the world know what a good marriage should look like if God’s people are flippant about marriage?
3:1-6	<b>5. Sardis – Wake Up, People! .....Grade: F</b> • Though, this church was spiritually dead, Christ still looked at Sardis (and Laodicea) as His church, and worthy to be challenged and disciplined • How can we tell if a church is being disciplined?
3:7-13	<b>6. Philadelphia – March On .....Grade: A+</b> • What does it mean to be made a pillar in the temple? • How does our church compare to Philadelphia? • What would we need to do to be like Philly or Smyrna?
3:14-22	<b>7. Laodicea – Stop the Train .....Grade: F</b> • What churches exhibit the traits of Laodicea today? • How can such churches be turned around?

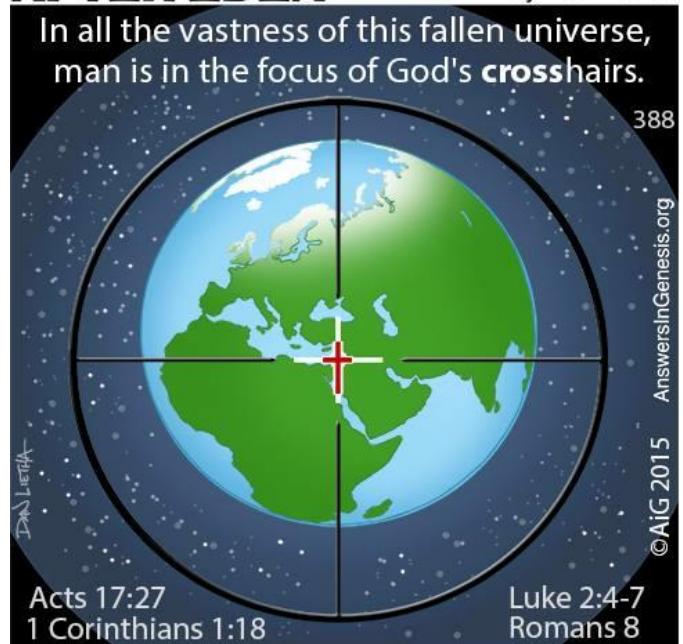
**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- In 7 vss (2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29, 3:6, 3:13 & 3:22) “He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (plural)
  - ◆ Here, the Lord extends to each church (and individual) great grace and mercy if they respond to the corrective action and take on the characteristic of Smyrna and Philadelphia
- **Consider this.** None of these churches, including Smyrna and Philadelphia exist today. Their candlesticks have been removed.
  - ◆ Every church is always one generation away from apostasy
  - ◆ What are we doing to fight the good fight?

**NEXT WEEK: Revelation 4-6.** We get a glimpse of the throne room of God, & we see the 7 seals of wrath being released on the earth

**AFTER EDEN**

by Dan Lietha



# THE SEVEN CHURCHES REVELATION 2-3

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## 1 EPHEBUS (2:1-7)

**Positives** = toil & patient endurance for Jesus' sake, abhorrence of evil & false teaching

**Negatives** = abandoned first love

**Command** = remember, repent & return to previous good works

**Disobedience** = will have their lampstand removed

**Obedience** = will eat from the tree of life

## 2 SMYRNA (2:8-11)

**Positives** = enduring opposition & slander & being spiritually rich

**Negatives** = none

**Command** = be faithful to the point of death

**Disobedience** = none

**Obedience** = will be given crown of life & will not hurt by the second death

## 3 PERGAMUM (2:12-17)

**Positives** = holding fast to Jesus' name & not denying his faith

**Negatives** = some have accepted false teaching

**Command** = repent

**Disobedience** = will face war from the sword of Jesus' mouth

**Obedience** = will be given hidden manna & a white enscripted stone

## 4 THYATIRA (2:18-29)

**Positives** = love, faith, service & faithful endurance

**Negatives** = toleration of false teaching, idolatry & sexual immorality

**Command** = reject false teaching & hold fast to Jesus

**Disobedience** = tribulation & death

**Obedience** = will be given authority over the nations & given the morning star



## 5 SARDIS (3:1-6)

**Positives** = none

**Negatives** = spiritually dead & incomplete in works

**Command** = wake up, strengthen faith & repent

**Disobedience** = will be opposed by Jesus who will come like a thief

**Obedience** = will walk with Jesus, be clothed in white & will have names in the book of life & confessed by Jesus before the Father & angels

## 6 PHILADELPHIA (3:7-13)

**Positives** = kept Jesus' word, not denied his name & patiently endured

**Negatives** = none

**Command** = hold fast

**Disobedience** = none

**Obedience** = will be kept from the hour of trial & made a pillar in the temple of God & have name of God, New Jerusalem & Jesus written on them

## 7 LAODICEA (3:14-22)

**Positives** = none

**Negatives** = spiritually lukewarm, wretched, pitiable, poor, blind & naked

**Command** = buy spiritual gold & salve to become spiritually rich, clothed & seeing

**Disobedience** = be zealous, repent & hear Jesus' voice

**Obedience** = will eat with Jesus & sit with him on his throne

## PATMOS (1:9)

An Aegean island south of Samos, where prisoners were exiled by the Roman authorities. John was sent here 'on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus' (1:9) & received his prophetic revelation during this stay.