

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 nd John & 3 rd John
7) 19 July.....	Rev 1
8) 26 July.....	Rev 2-3
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	The Apostolic Church. Besides these seven churches, other 1 st century churches received accolades from Apostles (e.g., Philippians), while others chastisement (Galatian, Corinthians)
Smyrna 100-312	The Persecuted Church. The Church, at large, was persecuted from the time of Nero until Constantine, who himself became a Christian
Pergamum 312-590	The Compromising Church. The Church indulged some pagan doctrines to make it more attractive
Thyatira 590-1517	The Corrupt Church (aka, the Dark Ages). 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	The Dead Church. The Church (mostly, Roman Catholic) became very political. The Reformation challenged this by inadvertently creating new denominations on an unprecedented scale
Philadelphia 1750-Rapture	The Missionary Church. 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.	The Lukewarm Church. The Church has grown wealthy and self-sufficient not needing Christ, and rejecting His doctrines for comfort

Passage	Comments
Rev 2:1-7	1. Ephesus – All Work, No PlayGrade: C • They left their first love. 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 st love? What does it mean to have their lampstand removed?
2:8-11	2. Smyrna – Go One Step FurtherGrade: A+ • 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	3. Pergamum – Fix What’s BrokeGrade: C • 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	4. Thyatira – All Play, No WorkGrade: C • 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	5. Sardis – Wake Up, People!Grade: F • 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	6. Philadelphia – March OnGrade: A+ • 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	7. Laodicea – Stop the TrainGrade: F • What churches exhibit the traits of Laodicea today? • How can such churches be turned around?

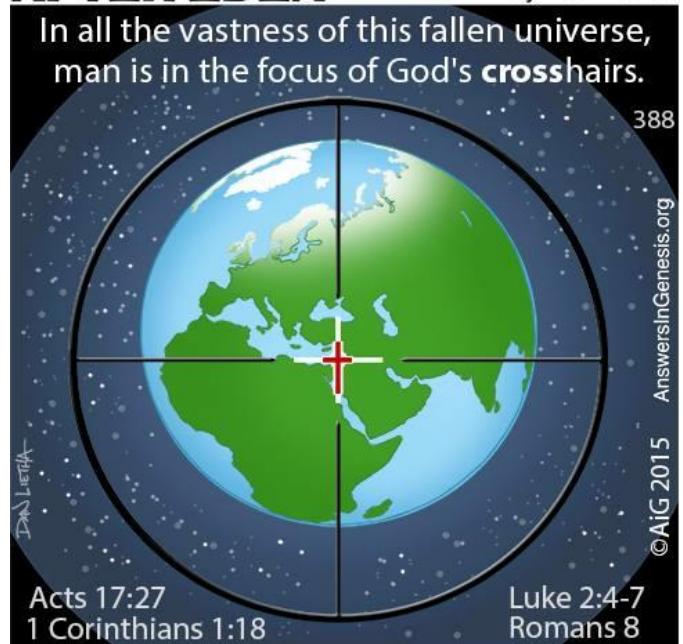
CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- 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.