

The Book of Revelation - Messages to 7 Churches

Series REV-03

The messages to the seven churches are for God's people today, just as much as in the time of John when he received them. Actually, there are at least four applications to these messages found here in Revelation 2 & 3. I believe God has built in these multiple applications to reach His people living in the days of John, living down through the long ages of Christian history and for God's people living in this last remnant of time.

Truth is multi-dimensional, as Eph 3:17-19 reveals—"That Christ might dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height and to know the love of Christ." Since Christ is the truth (John 14:6), the truth has breadth, depth, length and height to it.

The Revelation chart you were given last time, is to be understood from the contemporary aspect. In other words, at the time we are living, for as John records, "the time is at hand" (Rev 1:3). Especially is this true in our day.

Before we leave chapter One, note these two verses:

Vs. 2 and 9 states "the testimony of Jesus Christ." This phrase we will be seeking to understand through our study of the book and we will have a much better understanding of what it means, upon completion of our studies in the Revelation. But let me just say it incorporates a concept on page two of lesson #2 which you were asked to express, which we all experience—*suffering*.

Seven Messages to Seven Churches

Revelation 2 we will cover this time, covering the first four of the seven churches and next lesson, chp.3 we will look at the remaining three churches.

The two concepts in the homework corresponding with this lesson were repeated several times through the churches. These two concepts—**repentance** and **faith**—are two of the vital benefits of the cross we must embrace in our Christian experience.

As we discussed in class, five of the seven churches needed repentance. One naturally might ask why? Why these two churches—Smyrna and Philadelphia—have escaped the counsel of Christ to repent? Were they already blameless churches, with perfect church members?

Tell us in your own words, based on reviewing, even studying the traits or characteristics of these two churches why there was no need they repent.

Though we won't look at the detail this time, there is a connection of the attributes of Christ in Rev 1 as He walks amongst the lampstand, with five of the seven churches.

In next week's lesson we shall find some interesting parallels between the churches in the following positions:

1 & 7, 2 & 6, 3 & 5. Position 4 stands out unique in at least a couple points from the other six. See if you can find those points. {This is not hard. Hint: look for obvious differences in the 4th church among the similar aspects found in all the churches. We will discuss your findings in class.}

Lastly, from the Revelation chart handed out in our first lesson, the rectangular box which summarizes the seven parts of the three angels' messages (under the icon of the three angels) has a word or two in each box.

There is a connection between these three angels and the seven messages. {Note these are all color coded for a reason} Studying this chart will also help with the questions above. Please write down the words connecting the three angels messages with the seven churches. {Hint: They are color coded to help you. Also don't forget the column next to the churches.}

Ephesus:

Smyrna:

Pergamos:

Thyatira:

Sardis:

Philadelphia:

Laodicea:

Bring what you've found to next week's class, we shall find that the Lord is *precious* in putting this book together. This is a message in each for you.