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*Wednesday Night Faith Fellowship Meeting – 08/04/2021*

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**Today's Message:** Study – The Book of Revelation, Part 6 – The Letters

**Text:** Revelation 1:19-20; John 10:27; Revelation 1:11; Acts 17:16; Acts 17:11; Revelation 2:2; Revelation 2:9; Revelation 2:13; Revelation 2:19; Revelation 3:1; Revelation 3:8; Revelation 3:15; Matthew 13:33; Revelation 2:7; Revelation 2:11; Revelation 2:17; Revelation 2:26-27; Revelation 3:5-6; Revelation 3:12-13; Revelation 3:21-22; and Revelation 3:2-3

**Email:**

[mcfilesfaith@gmail.com](mailto:mcfilesfaith@gmail.com) – Faith related questions

[mcfilesprayers@gmail.com](mailto:mcfilesprayers@gmail.com) – Prayer Requests

**Notes:** [www.spiritjournals.orgn](http://www.spiritjournals.orgn) -or- <https://chrismc77.wixsite.com/spiritjournals/>

**Bible Translation:** King James Version

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**Revelation 1:19-20 – The Commission**

<sup>19</sup>Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; <sup>20</sup>The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

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**Teaching Outline:**

- Review of The Commission (Rev 1:19-20)
  
- Review of The Churches (Rev 1:11)
  1. Ephesus – The Apostolic Church
  2. Smyrna – Persecuted Church
  3. Pergamos – State/Constantine Church
  4. Thyatira – Papal Church
  5. Sardis – Dead Church (Reformation)
  6. Philadelphia – Missionary Church
  7. Laodicea – Apostate Church/End Time!

## Teaching Outline (cont.):

- The 10 Similarities of The Churches:
  1. One or More Details of Christ's Description (Rev 1:12-16).
  2. Each is addressed to the pastor.
  3. Each Church is commended for its works except Laodicea – She Had None.
  4. Each Church is rebuked except Smyrna and Philadelphia.
  5. Each Church is Commanded to Repent Except Smyrna, Thyatira, and Philadelphia.
  6. Warnings of judgment are given to all the churches except Smyrna and Philadelphia.
  7. Each church was more corrupt than a preceding one except Ephesus, Smyrna and Philadelphia.
    - Ephesus was commended for ten things
    - Laodicea was condemned for ten things
  8. Promises to overcomers are in each.
  9. Each End with an Admonition TO HEAR "What The Spirit Sayeth to The Church."
  10. John is told to write in each case.

When he finishes one letter he is directed whom to write and what to write, until the last is completed.

Then he is told to write "the things which shall be hereafter" the churches (Revelation 1:19; 4:1).

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### *Outline:*

- *Review of The Commission (Rev 1:19-20)*

Jesus spoke to John as a voice of many waters. Powerful majestic voice. **His voice makes the difference.**

John 10:27:

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

### **Revelation 1:19-20 – The Commission**

<sup>19</sup>Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; <sup>20</sup>The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches [pastors]: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

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### *Outline:*

*Review of The Churches (Rev 1:11)*

John was instructed to send seven letters to these churches.

Revelation 1:11:

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, **write in a book**, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

These were elected personally by Christ. These churches, except Ephesus, were never mentioned in the canon of Scripture until this point.



Those are the seven churches of Asia Minor. Pergamos, Thyatira, Smyrna they're near each other. Ephesus to the south. When you go directly east you see Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Laodicea was directly north of Colossae. Colossae is the church where Paul wrote the letter to the Colossians. You can see Ephesus.

If you look to the very right you'll see Antioch. They were first called Christians at Antioch. Tarsus is where Paul was from. That's where Paul's home town was. He was Saul of Tarsus before he became Paul when he was persecuting Christians. Here's Patmos, that little island out in the Aegean Sea between Greece and Turkey.

In Greece, there's Thessalonica, the church at Thessaloniki. Constantinople which was the head of the Roman Empire, the eastern leg. Here's Corinth, that church that was so backslidden it wasn't funny. Paul had to rebuke that church. That was north of Sparta and near Athens. Paul preached at Athens.

Acts 17:16:

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

**The Bereans were famous for studying The Word of God.** Here's Philippi, another church that you see in Scriptures. The letter to the Philippians was written to that church. But the Bereans were famous in the book of Acts for being students of the Bible. **Oh that we have more Bereans!!**

Acts 17:11:

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

The Bible is there **for doctrine**. It's not to be used to be a hammer and discredit because you're not agreeing with something. It's to be there for doctrinal truth.

### **The Word of God is exclusively true! It will always be true!**

Here's Rome where Paul was beheaded. It was the seat of great persecution of the church. All of this is in relation to Israel and Jerusalem. You can see where these churches are. There's Pergamos, Thyatira, Smyrna, Ephesus, Philadelphia, Sardis, and Laodicea.

These churches are an outline of church history.

Seven Churches of Asia Minor:

1. Ephesus – Apostolic Church – Ended 100 AD
2. Smyrna – Martyr Church – 100-300 AD – Rome hurled 10 Bloody Persecutions against The Church
3. Pergamos – State Church – 300-500 AD – Constantine the Great Legalized Christianity making it the State Religion of Roman Empire – Invasion of Paganism into The Church
4. Thyatira – Papal Church 500 AD-Present – Rome Assumed Power over The Church – Pope
5. Sardis – Luther – 1500 AD – Justification of Faith
6. Philadelphia – Missionary Church – 1800-1900 AD
7. Laodicea – Present Day Apostate to Rapture

Adam to Christ is 4000 years

Church has been around for 1991 years

Human History has been around for 5991 years

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*Outline:*

*Seven Churches of Asia Minor - Ephesus*

The Holy Ghost outpouring of Pentecost only lasted about 100 years, maybe a little bit longer.

Many fell away from the faith during that time. Many renounced Christ but many stood firm for Christ as Rome hurled ten bloody persecutions against the church.

The fervor of that first church **only lasted about 100 years**. Then it was quenched. People started to fall away from the faith.

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*Outline:*

*Seven Churches of Asia Minor - Pergamos*

As the persecution arose, Constantine, the leader, had his headquarters in Constantinople. That city was named after him. He legalized Christianity in the kingdoms of that influence in Turkey and really made Christianity legal in all of the middle east. It was a blessing and curse. In put the church in bed with the world and the church has never gotten out of that bed.

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The church came in in the fire [the day of Pentecost] and **the remanent church is going out in the fire.**

God just needed a few faithful. God don't need an army of a hundred thousand. He just needs an army of one or two that will truly trust him and turn this world upside down.

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*Outline:*

*Seven Churches of Asia Minor - Smyrna*

There was power in that church that came in on Pentecost. But that fire was quenched by some of the persecution. Persecution and offense causes people to fall away.

The church's greatest danger is not persecution. **The church's greatest danger is acceptance.** When the church is **persecuted the church turns to God.** When the church is **accepted the church turns to the world.**

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*Outline:*

*Seven Churches of Asia Minor - Thyatira*

The Dark Ages was a time when the Catholic Church would not allow the lay people and the regular people to read the Scriptures. They took on themselves the authority that the only people that could tell you what the Bible said was the hierarchy, the Pope, the Priests, and the Bishops. Jesus detested this and He in no uncertain terms said that to Thyatira.

Every single one of you need to read this Bible for yourself! Nobody should be over you telling you what this Book says. You need to be reading it yourself!

The five-fold ministry gift of the pastor, the evangelist, the prophet, the teacher, and the apostle are to establish truth and to help guide you into this truth. But the responsibility of the knowledge of The Word of God does not lie on the five-fold ministry gift. It relies on YOU!

The Lord wants you to get into His Word. He wants you to read The Word. He wants you to study The Word.

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*Outline:*

*Seven Churches of Asia Minor - Sardis*

This church is parallel to when Martin Luther confronted the Catholic Church. He nailed his thesis in Vicksburg Germany and said the just shall live by faith. But there was something about Sardis, that was missing. Something about Luther and that moment that wasn't right.

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*Outline:*

*Seven Churches of Asia Minor - Philadelphia*

In 1800-1900 AD is the last time America experienced a sustained revival of any kind. It latest roughly about 100 years, maybe a little less than that. It was the final push by God. It was during this time Azusa Street took place. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The latter rain came to this country. God sent powerful men on this nation's landscape preaching The Word under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. **They were tongue-talking, Holy Ghost filled preachers.** That church was on fire. God help us to get that spirit of Philadelphia back into this church in this hour.

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*Outline:*

*Seven Churches of Asia Minor - Laodicea*

Which is the present-day church. The apostate church which will last up to the rapture. The rapture will close the Church Age.

These are the letters that were sent to these seven churches to which these letters were sent but they represented prophetically these time periods. Even though all of the letters contained instruction and contained encouragement for us in this modern twenty-first century.

The Church Age began at Pentecost and we've been in about 1991 years of the Church Age.

The church has never been in more danger, **it's never been in more peril than it is right now, doctrinally speaking.**

**If we don't turn around,** we are headed for judgment.

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*Outline:*

- *The 10 Similarities of The Churches*
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    2. Each is addressed to the pastor.
    3. Each Church is commended for its works except Laodicea – She Had None.
    4. Each Church is rebuked except Smyrna and Philadelphia.
    5. Each Church is Commanded to Repent Except Smyrna, Thyatira, and Philadelphia.
    6. Warnings of judgment are given to all the churches except Smyrna and Philadelphia.
    7. Each church was more corrupt than a preceding one except Ephesus, Smyrna and Philadelphia.
      - Ephesus was commended for ten things
      - Laodicea was condemned for ten things
    8. Promises to overcomers are in each.
    9. Each End with an Admonition **TO HEAR** "What The Spirit Sayeth to The Church."
    10. John is told to write in each case.
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These versus open-up the salutation to the following churches:

Revelation 2:2 – Ephesus

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Revelation 2:9 – Smyrna

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 2:13 – Pergamos

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Revelation 2:19 – Thyatira

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first.

Revelation 3:1 – Sardis

I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Revelation 3:8 – Philadelphia

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Revelation 3:15 – Laodicea

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

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Matthew 13:33:

Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven [symbol of evil], which a woman [agent of idolatry] took, and hid in three measures of meal [The Word of God], till the whole was leavened.

What that is saying, as the kingdom of heaven progresses, as we see the kingdom of heaven and the Church Age progress, the leaven that is evil, that is contrary to The Word of God, is going to get more and more and more pronounced.

Jesus is warning these churches to repent. He's talking to the pastors – repent! If they don't repent, He tells them judgment is coming. Every church's judgement is different. He warns them, all of them, their judgment is coming.

Jesus talks with these churches about their candlestick. And when He talks about removing their candlestick, their candlestick was their influence. That's what He's warning us. If we don't hear what the Spirit of God is saying to the church, He's gonna remove that candlestick. He's gonna remove that light. When the light is removed, the only thing left is darkness. When darkness consumes a nation, it consumes a church. When it consumes an individual, **all that's left is judgment.**

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When He gets to the end of all these letters, there's a promise to overcome. He promises if you overcome, I'll give you the bright morning star.

Revelation 2:7 – Ephesus

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:11 – Smyrna

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 2:17 – Pergamos

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.



Revelation 2:26-29 – Thyatira

<sup>26</sup>And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: <sup>27</sup>And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. <sup>28</sup>And I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup>He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:5-6 – Sardis

<sup>5</sup>He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. <sup>6</sup>He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:12-13 – Philadelphia

<sup>12</sup>Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is new Jerusalem*, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him my new name*. <sup>13</sup>He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:21-22 – Laodicea

<sup>21</sup>To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. <sup>22</sup>He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

When he finishes one letter he is directed whom to write and what to write, until the last is completed.

Then he is told to write “the things which shall be hereafter” the churches (Revelation 1:19; 4:1).

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Revelation 3:2-3:

<sup>2</sup>Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. <sup>3</sup>Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Christ had nothing good to say about Laodicea. Christ had nothing bad to say about Smyrna and Philadelphia. Laodicea is us, the modern church, the apostate church of 2021.

**Pray hard for this America apostate system!**

The One that is walking among the candlesticks and the One that holds the stars in His hands and the One that speaks like the voice of many waters, He’s the head of the church and He knows the church and He knows the spiritual condition of the church and He’s very aware of what’s going on. Yet He loves the church enough to command it to repent! He doesn’t want to see the church destroyed. If we will repent, we will see His blessing!!