



The Book of Revelation - Advanced Teaching Session 4
The Church at Ephesus

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Key things to keep in mind, the bible is an intentional written book from God Himself.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

This includes the book of revelation!

Every chapter, sentence, word and jot or tittle is there by design. There is no happenstance books, chapters, or words in the bible.

Therefore, there is no mistakes in the Bible as it was originally written in the Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic.

The Book of Revelation is about The Revelation or Unveiling of Jesus Christ and things which will soon take place.

A Unique Promise

Revelation 1:3 tells us to “Read... Hear... understand and Keep” what is written in this book: This is the only book with a special promise if you do these three things.

Jesus tells John how He wants him to outline this book.

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

“The things which you have seen”: The things which John had seen, are included in the Gospel of John and goes through the first chapter of Revelation.

For many scholars believe, that John wrote the Gospel of John after he wrote the Book of Revelation.

“The Things that are”. *The Seven Churches:*

This is what God’s **report card** looks like for these seven churches.

Not only did God have a report card on them, but God also has a report card on the churches today and on us. Think about it!



The bible speaks of at least five books that are recorded in heaven about humanity.

The Book of the Living

The Book of Tears

The Book of Remembrance

The Book of Works and Deeds

The Book of Life/The Lamb's Book of Life

These seven churches should be view from three perspectives. From a historical view, from a homiletical view or life application view, and from a prophetic view.

- 1) **Historical view:** these were actual churches in Asia Minor or what we call turkey today. Research by archaeologist Sir William Ramsey proves that these churches actually existed years ago. This is the historical view; these letters actually address the condition of these churches.
- 2) **Life application:** “He that has an ear...” Applies to us.
- 3) **Prophetic:** In their *particular order*, they lay out the history of the church. They lay out the progression of the Church from the Day of Pentecost, to this present age. They fill the gap implied in **Daniel 9:26**.

Seven Design Elements or features In Each of the Letters

- **Name of the Church-** if you research the name of these churches it coincides with the condition of the church at the time of this writing.
- **Title Chosen of Jesus Christ** - The chosen title for Christ fits the condition of the Church. Who He would have to manifest as to take the church to the level where it should be.
- **Commendation-** most of the churches Jesus had something good to say about them.
- **Concern-** Jesus lays out the concern that He has about most of the churches.
- **Exhortation-** He encourages them to keep doing good, and in some cases to do better.
- **Promise to the Overcomer-** There is a promise attached to most of the letters if they overcome or hold fast.
- **The emphasis that the letters were written to everyone.** *“He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

So, as we take a look at these churches let's look at these design elements.



The Book of Revelation **The Letter to the Church at Ephesus Revelation 2:1-7**

Ephesus, The Loveless Church: The people in Ephesus were hard-working people who endured and hated evil. From the outside, they may have looked like they had it together, but their hearts were not in sync with the Heart of God.

The 2 greatest commandments are to love God and love people (**Mark 12:30-31**) and Ephesus was missing this single greatest component for all born-again believers to Love God, not just doing the work of God.

*Let's look at the **Seven Design Elements in the Letter to this church. (Ephesus report card).***

Title of Christ

Revelation 2:1-3 To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, These things say He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

A lampstand is a bearer of light, not a source of light. (The Church as the organization)

The vessels that set on the lampstand is the source of light. (The Believer-the organism)

Vessels are filled with oil, which is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

Notice Jesus has the Stars in His right hand (The favored position) and He is walking in the mist of the churches.



Remember the stars are the angels that are assigned to each church. Understanding that the angels are in the right hand of God, lets us know that nothing goes on that are assigned for the angels to minister to the church that doesn't have the favor and permission of God on it.

Not only is this true for the church but is true for individuals as well. For we all have ministering angels assigned to us and we have Christ in us.



Remember one of the main job description for an Angel, is a messenger.

*Remember in **Job** Chapter 1 that the angelic host comes before the throne of God to give reports on what is going on in the church. It would be the same in the New Testament except it is Jesus's responsibility to make sure the church is taken care of in the church era and the Angels report to Him.*

The Position of Jesus Christ

Christ is in us, by way of the Holy Spirit to Lead, empower, and witness Jesus to us!

Christ is in the midst of us, establishing and regulating our surroundings.

Christ is holding us, protecting us, carefully orchestrating every element of our lives, so that all things work for our good.

Commendation

Revelation 2:2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

3 and you have persevered and have patience and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

a. ***I know your works***; this lets us know that God knows what we do as a collective Group as well as individuals.

They had good works. Heaven was recording their works.

This lets us know that in these last days Christ is paying attention to our works.

Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.

b. ***and your labor***,

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

This denotes, not only does Christ know the works that we have done, but He also knows how hard we have worked.

c. ***and your patience***, they knew how to wait on the Lord and see the development from it.

Patience does a work inside of us.



James 1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Patience does a perfect work in us so that we can retain and maintain the increase that God provides.

This also shows that they had great faith believing that they would be fruitful in the work they were doing.

d. **and how you cannot not bear them which are evil:** they didn't get caught up in the evil culture of their time.

1st Thessalonians 5:22 Stay away from every kind of evil.

*The evil that God doesn't tolerate on a report card is found in **Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly (Fearful), unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."***

They did not compromise the integrity or the standard of the Word of God.

They also did not tolerate everything that the world approved of.

e. **And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;**

They studied to show themselves approved of the Lord, and what they were being taught by the leaders. This helped them to recognize real fivefold ministry gift from those who were wolves in sheep clothing.

Acts 17:11-12 (NLT) And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures, day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.

Concern

Revelation 2:4-7 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

The primary concern- They have lost "your first love." They were too busy on the business of the King to have time for the King...

Born-again believers are to love God the way a husband should love their wives and vice versa.

There should be communication, affection, and intimacy in our relationships with God, just like in a good the marital relationship. If not, you are just going through the motions. Example: **Songs of Solomon, Ephesians 5:22-32**

Doing good things can't substitute for worship and alone time with God.

The Church at Ephesus Had taken on the attitude of Martha, *mentioned in*

Luke 10:38-42 (New Living Translation) 38 As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed them into her home.



39 Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. 40 But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that

my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me." 41 But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! 42 There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

There are many Christians like this in the church today. They will come to church as long as they have something to do. But if they just have to come and listen and hear the word of God and worship God without having something to do, they get disconnected. They find themselves drifting away. This is evident that they have more concern about the work of the Lord than the Lord of the work.

Exhortation

God will always warn in some fashion before He must make corrections.

5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place unless you repent.

Notice Jesus is telling the believers at Ephesus to repent for not loving him in the right way.

Repentance is a lifestyle not a onetime event. It's a lifestyle so it gives the believer the opportunity to continue to grow and mature in the things of the Lord.

Every true Church of God has a prominent place within the world and within his Kingdom. That church is also a place where the light is lit so others can see. God wants all his churches to be the proper example that he has established them for, if not he will have to reposition them because of the influence that they are showing.

This is also true of every believer as well.

6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Emphasis that this letter is written to everyone.-

7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Promise to the overcomer-

To him who overcomes (Notice Plural) I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

We are called to be consistent overcomers. It started at salvation and won't end until we stand before Jesus Christ.