

#270

The Seven Churches

The seven churches of Rev: 2&3 were actual churches in Asia at the first church age. Bible scholars have broken down the churches into church ages, Ephesus being the **FIRST** church age, 100 – 300 AD. Smyrna being 300 – 600 Ad. Pergamos being from 600 – 1500 AD. Thyatira being from 1500 – 1700 AD. Sardis being from 1700 – 1850 AD. Philadelphia being from 1850 – 1950 AD. And the **LAST** church age Laodicean being from 1950 – Jesus return.

Now this scenario can fit into these various time zones as the dominant church practice at that time. **BUT** as there were true disciples, religious members, lukewarm members, indifferent members and so on. The seven churches in the **FIRST** century are no different from the churches in the **LAST** century.

We have churches that believe most of the bible, then there are churches that believe half the bible and those that believe only what suits them. There are those that believe the whole bible and trust God (like the Philadelphia church), and then there is the very, very religious that are so cold you almost freeze when you meet with them.

Revelation 1:20 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.**

#1 - **Rev 2:1** Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write;
(I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience,)

In other words, they were pretty good except they were loosing their first love, they were beginning to think of self more than others. Jesus said:
Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee

#2 - **Rev 2:8** And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write;
(I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty,)

They stood faithful and true in spite of the tribulations spawned by Satan and the religious order trying to bring them back under the law. Jesus had; NO REBUTTAL

#3 - **Rev 2:12** And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write;
(I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is:)

They held fast to salvation and didn't deny Christ, But they allowed the doctrine to be changed and so Jesus said;

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, Repent:

#4 - **Rev 2:18** And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write;
(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.)

He praised them for their charity and service but reprimanded them for allowing the spirit of Jezebel to have permanence over the Gospel.

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach.

But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

#5 - **Rev :3:1** And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write
(I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.)

He states in verse 4 that there are a few that have not defiled themselves and will walk with him in white. He goes on to say that not all in the church are of that doctrine, as the churches today, some in them are good Christians.

#6 - **Rev 3:7** And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write;
(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.)

This is a representation of his true church, there is no rebuke and because these believers are true, he promises to keep them from the wrath of God, what we call today the Great Tribulation.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

There are those that refute that this cannot be used in reference to the rapture as the church of Philadelphia was 2000 years ago, true BUT there has been a church of Philadelphia in every century. Only we have a denominational name for it. (now quit trying to figure out which denomination fits the bill)

John 4: 23/24 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

This is the true church, the body of CHRIST and not the denomination.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

#7 - Rev 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write:

(That thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou were cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.)

This fits so many of the modern fellowships like the new agers, Christian Science and a lot of modern denominations. Jesus says;

Rev 3:20/21 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 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.

Not to many of these will repent though because they have convinced themselves that what they're doing is not wrong and God is a loving God. They refuse to examine themselves even though God has tried to correct them time and time again.

I trust this gives you a better understanding

Bro. Ken <http://burningbushcrusades.com/>