

A Study of the End Times!

The Revelation of Jesus Christ



The Outline of the Book!

Revelation 1:19

This Morning We Turn From The Past to the Present!

I. (1:1-20) Focus: Past!

The Things You Have Seen!

II. (2:1-3:22) Focus: Present!

The Things Which Are!

III. (4:1-22:21) Focus: Future!

The Things Which Shall Soon Take Place!

***This Morning's Journey
Through the Book of Revelation!***

The Text:

Revelation 2:8-11!

The Title:

***Our Lord's Message to the Church:
Then and Now!***

Theme:

***The Revealing of Things
Which Must Shortly Come to Pass!***

I. (1:1-20) The Introduction: Write the Things You Have Seen!

A. (1:1-11) The CIRCUMSTANCES of the Vision!

Focus: What John Heard.



I. (1:1-20) The Introduction: Write the Things You Have Seen!

B. (1:12-16) The CONTENT of the Vision!

Focus: What John Saw.



I. (1:1-20) The Introduction: Write the Things You Have Seen!

B. (1:17-20) The CONSEQUENCES of the Vision!

Focus: What John Did.



Words of Wisdom from Dr. Lehman Strauss Given to Today's Church:

Christ's admonition and appeal is just as appropriate to us today as it was to Ephesus. Someone has said that ninety-five per cent of the activity in the average local assembly would go on as it is presently even if the Holy Spirit did not exist. Perhaps this is the reason why the average assembly is devoid of spiritual power. There is much activity in many churches, but it is to be feared that most of it is “bootleg” and without any divine purpose and power whatever. Because of this Christ words were literally fulfilled in Ephesus, and history has continuously repeated itself. Remember and repent – or else!

Overview of the Seven Churches!

1. (2:1-7) The Church at **Ephesus**: The Lacking Church.
(They Lost Their First Love!)

2. (2:8-11) The Church at **Smyrna**: The Loyal Church.
(While Poor and Persecuted, They Remain Faithful!)

3. (2:12-17) The Church at **Pergamum**: The Licentious Church.

They Are Compared to Balaam and
Balak!

4. (2:18-29) The Church at **Thyatira**: The Lax Church. They follow the woman
Jezebel!

5. (3:1-6) The Church at **Sardis**: The Lifeless Church. They are considered Dead!

6. (3:7-13) The Church at **Philadelphia**: The Loving Church. They are comforted!

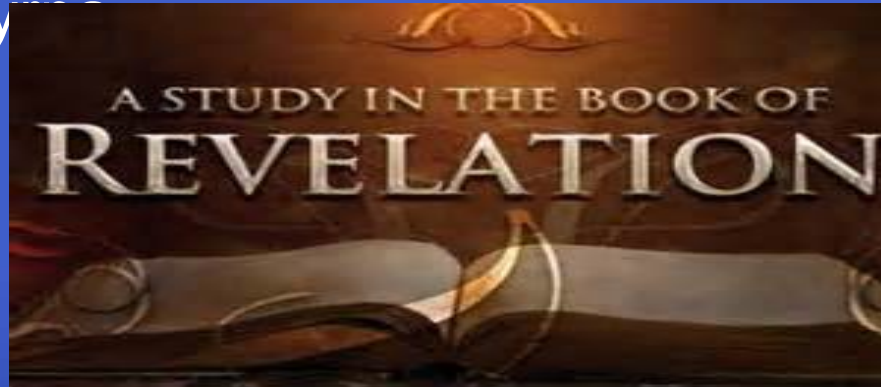
7. (3:14-22) The Church at **Laodicea**: The Lukewarm Church. They make Christ
sick!

The Overview of Today's Sermon Outline!

- I. (1:1-20) Write: The Things You Have Seen / **Past!**
- II. (2:1-3:22) Write: The Things Which Are / **Present!**
 - A. (2:1-7) A Letter is Addressed to the **Church at Ephesus.**
 - B. (2:8-11) A Letter is Addressed to the **Church at Smyrna.**
 - 1. (2:8a) The **Assembly** located in Smyrna.
 - 2. (2:8b) The **Author** of the letter is the Lord.
 - 3. (2:9-10b) The **Affliction** in Smyrna is great.
 - 4. (2:10a&10c) The **Appeal** to the church is twofold.
 - 5. (2:11) The **Action** that is anticipated is given.

Today's Application!

Unlike the believers who lived in ancient Smyrna, most of us may never face the danger of losing our life for being loyal to Jesus. Instead, we most like may be struggling under the pressure of an unreasonable boss, or fighting to keep a sinking business afloat, or suffering from verbal jabs from an uncaring spouse or a rebellious child. Perhaps some may be facing pressure from creditors and bill collectors. Regardless of the source of our hurt or the intensity of our pain, there are three principles that we can take with us from today's study of the believers in Smyrna.



Three Principles that can be Applied Today!

1. **The Lord knows all about our circumstances!** We may feel misunderstood, forgotten and abandoned, but Jesus knows our plight and He will stay with us no matter what we may be forced to face. We can count on that. He has promised to never leave us or forsake those who are obedient to His calling.

2. **If things stay the same, Christ will be our fortress!** You have no reason to fear or to run. Trust in Him completely and He will give you the courage needed to face your circumstances. He is our promised peace that passes all understanding.

3. **If things get worse, the Lord will see you through!** Contrary to popular theology today, there are no guarantees that material prosperity and social prestige will come to the faithful follower of Christ in this life. The Christians who suffered in the first century city of Smyrna are a case in point. It should be noted that in verse 10, Jesus said that their loyalty to Him would lead to a bleaker situation and not to a better one. Nevertheless, if our situation goes from bad to worse, rest in the fact that a promised day of future blessing lays ahead. For the believer, suffering is temporary and reward is eternal. For the unbeliever reward is temporary while

Wisdom from Charles Spurgeon!

The power that is in the message of the Gospel does not lie in the eloquence of the preacher; otherwise men would be the convertors of souls. Nor does it lie in the preachers learning, otherwise it would consist in the wisdom of men. We might preach until our tongues rotted, till we would exhaust our lungs and die. But never a soul would be converted unless the Holy Spirit be with the Word of God to give it the power to convert the soul.



Building Upon Our Three Discoveries!

1ST Discovery ... Each of the seven letters written to the seven churches have a **primary association** with a local assembly. Each of which (seven churches in chapters 2 and 3) is given a measuring rod to help it understand its standing before the risen Lord.

2ND Discovery ... Each of the seven letters written to the seven churches has a **personal application** which is to be applied to each individual member who is part of that local assembly. The focus of the message is on people and not a place or location.

3RD Discovery ... Each of the seven letters written to the seven churches sets forth a **prophetic anticipation** which calls for all churches, both then and now, to heed the wisdom or suffer the warning. While the focus is singular (to an individual local church) the application is plural (to all local assemblies both then and now).