

A Study of the End Times!

The Revelation of Jesus Christ



CSG

Our Journey Through the Book of Revelation!

The Text:

Revelation 3:14-22!

The Title:

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

The Theme:

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

The Outline of the Book Revelation 1:19!

CHAPTER ONE

Write the things which were!

CHAPTERS TWO and THREE

Write the things which are!

CHAPTERS FOUR through TWENTY-TWO

Write the things which shall soon take place!

God's Coming Judgments!

The Seal Judgments!

One Fourth of Earth & Mankind Destroyed



God's Coming Judgments!

The Trumpet Judgments!

One Third of Earth & Mankind Destroyed



God's Coming Judgments!

The Bowl Judgments!

Unless Those Day Had Been Cut Short

No Life Would Have Been Saved



Let's Review The Second Major Section!

1. (2:1-7) The Church at Ephesus / The Lacking Church!

This church was considered lacking because it lost its love for God! Its love for Christ had been captured and replaced by its lust for the world's treasures. As a result their candlestick was removed from Christ's presence because of their love for fame and fortune.



Lets Review The Second Major Section!

2. (2:8-11) The Church at Smyrna / The Loyal Church!

This church refused to allow their love for this life to replace their love for God. As a result they were arrested, prosecuted, persecuted, and put to death. Yet, they remained loyal to Christ even when threatened with death. Because of their loyalty, Christ, the One who died and rose again for them, promises the crown of eternal life.



Let's Review The Second Major Section!

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

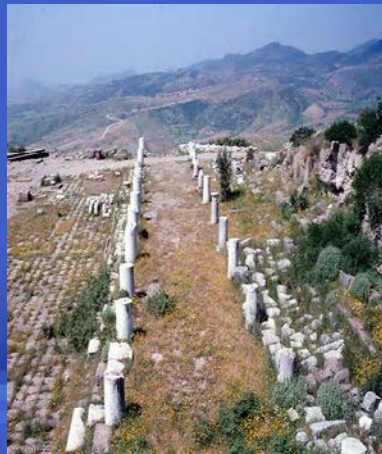
This church allowed God's truth to be replaced with a lie. The beliefs, practices, and worship of the many pagan gods of the city eventually impacted the believers in Pergamum. This impact caused the church to be infected with such things as idol worship and adultery. Christ appears carrying a sharp two-edged sword to remind His church of His imminent judgment.



Let's Review The Second Major Section!

4. The Church at Thyatira / The Lax Church!

This church is warned of coming judgment because of its tolerance. In their desire to work hard and make a living, the men were willing to set aside the assignments given to them by God. They allowed the women to assume the roles given to men. They were able to convince themselves that Christ would be pleased because of their desire for unity, peace, and political correctness. Their need to work hard helped them justify their lack of commitment to Christ. Here Christ is seen coming with eyes of fire and feet like burning bronze to judge.



Let's Review The Second Major Section!

5. (3:1-6) The Church at Sardis / The Lifeless Church!

This church was said to be dead because it sought security through the world's riches (remember the gold of king Croesus). Their focus had turned from trusting in Christ for eternal assurance, to their own personal wealth. Thus, Christ boldly announces that they are dead before God and would not escape the coming time of great tribulation upon the earth.



Let's Review The Second Major Section!

6. (3:7-13) The Church at Philadelphia / The Loving Church!

This church's love for Christ was evident before everyone. Their faith in God's promise of eternal life was revealed by their actions in the midst of a tragedy. In spite of loosing everything in a terrible earthquake, they were willing to reach out and meet the needs of their brothers and sisters in Christ. By doing this the message of the Gospel was evidenced before all. As a result of their love they will be forever identified with Christ and cared for by the Father.



Ruins at the city of Philadelphia

The Map of the Seven Churches!



Today's Sermon Outline

The Church at Laodicea!



1. (3:14a) The ASSEMBLY is in the City of Laodicea.
2. (3:14b) The AUTHOR is the Lord Himself.
3. (3:15-17) The ADMONITION is for the lack of faith.

Question: How can this happen?

Answer: There are several reasons!

1. Like the believers in **Ephesus** we also allow our love for God to be replaced with the desire of fame and fortune!
2. Like some of the believers in **Smyrna** we try to avoid suffering!
3. Like the believers in **Pergamum** we too worship idols today!
4. Like the believers in **Thyatira** we practice tolerance when it is sin!
5. Like the believers in **Sardis** we often place the desire of gaining temporal wealth over that which is eternal!
6. Like some of the believers in **Philadelphia** we seek to be secure and comfortable and forget our call to reach out to the unsaved!
7. Like the believers in **Laodicea** we often forget God is the only source of life!

Today's Sermon Outline

The Church at Laodicea!



1. (3:14a) The ASSEMBLY is in the City of Laodicea.
 2. (3:14b) The AUTHOR is the Lord Himself.
3. (3:15-17) The ADMONITION is for the lack of faith.
 4. (3:18-20) The ADVICE is to focus on Christ.
 5. (3:21-22) The ACTION that is expected.

A Conclusion Drawn From Section Two!

It is difficult for Christians to live in a world that demands spiritual compromise and/or rejects anyone who would seek to be different. However, we should remember that such attacks are nothing new. The church in the first century faced the same challenges that we in the twenty-first century face today. We need to have ears to hear Christ's message to the churches! One of the keys necessary to open the door to godly success is the choosing of biblical leaders. Let's close by focusing on some thoughts that are pertinent to all who are involved in today's local assembly/church.

Three Thoughts to Ponder!

1. Selecting leaders is serious business; we dare not take it lightly!

We need to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the best people are chosen for the right jobs. And this involves the consideration of character – their willingness to be part of a godly team and at the same time pure in our motives for wanting to lead.

Three Thoughts to Ponder!

2. Those who become leaders automatically become models!

It's a fact: congregations reflect the strengths and weaknesses of their leaders. This is one more reason for choosing truly qualified people to lead – individuals who manifest the traits that Christ's church are called to model.

Three Thoughts to Ponder!

3. We must be willing to follow those we appoint to lead!

Hebrews 13:17 says it well: “Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they keep watch over your soul, as those who will give an account (to God). Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.” Our church leaders need our cooperation if we're to benefit from their service. Are you a supporter or a follower? Or are you simply a fence sitter? Don't miss out on the blessing God has for you!

**Next Week We Begin the Third Section of the Book!
Our Focus Will Turn to Coming Future Events!**

