

CONCLUSION

the
Revelation

PART ONE

**The 7 Churches
of ASIA**

a study by

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**The
REVELATION
PART ONE
The Seven Churches of Asia**

CONCLUSION

REVIEW of GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

that must have been followed throughout this course:

ATTENDANCE:

The required minimum attendance for the course overall is 10 weeks.

The required minimum attendance for this lesson is 1 week.

You may take more than 1 week for each lesson should you choose to do so; without any penalty. In fact, some lessons probably will take more than a week to complete for some students. However, though you can take more than the minimum required attendance for each lesson, under no circumstances are you to take less than 1 week for each lesson.

TESTS:

Lesson tests are to have been taken not less than one week apart.

If you failed a test you may not submit a retake of that test on the same day that you failed it. You must wait at least one day before retaking the test. Use that time to restudy the material and find all of the correct answers to every question missed on the test. The copy of the test automatically sent to you has all of the correct answers on it. Use that copy to make sure you have found all of the correct answers in the study materials. You must look up the correct answers to all questions missed on every test, whether you passed or failed the test.

SCRIPTURES:

Each scripture referenced in this entire course must be looked up and read in your KJV. Reading the scriptures in the lesson, even if they are fully quoted in the lesson, will not fulfill this requirement. Scriptures must be looked up and read in your KJV.

LESSONS:

Each lesson is followed by a test. You will find a link to the course main page at the end of each lesson. When you click that link you will be returned to the course main page where you will find a list of tests. There will be instructions concerning whether a particular test is open book or closed book.

If a test is open book you will not need a password to access that test. Click the link for it and it will open and you can then take the test. Your next lesson attendance begins the day after you pass the current lesson test.

If a test is closed book, then you will be instructed to submit a Closed Book Test Contract form. When we receive that form, then you will be sent the password that you will need to access that test. In answer to your request, the password will be sent in 1-2 days, not including weekends when the college offices are closed.. Your next lesson attendance begins the day after you pass the current lesson test.

Make sure you have met all of the preceding requirements before accessing the next lesson and, after you have successfully passed the test for that lesson, proceeding to the Final Test.

You may now proceed to the next page to begin the Conclusion lesson.

CONCLUSION

Thus ends this segment of the Revelation of Christ to John. It ends with God's final admonition to Christians that those who remain faithful in Christ will be overcomer's and rule with Him no matter what kind of church they may be currently in.

We have seen seven different types of churches:

The first one, Ephesus, was loveless and mechanical;

Rev 2:4 "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee because thou hast left thy first love."



The second, Smyrna, was persecuted to the death but was promised life.

Rev 2:10: Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."



The third, Pergamos, was faithful even unto martyrdom, but becoming worldly and men-led instead of God-led.

Rev 2:14 "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam..."

Rev 2:15 "So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate."



The fourth, Thyatira, was growing, and faithful, and loving; but it had become so liberal that it allowed a false prophetess to lead the people into sin in the name of God.

Rev 2:20 "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols."



The fifth Church, Sardis, thought that it was alive; but God declared that it was already dead.

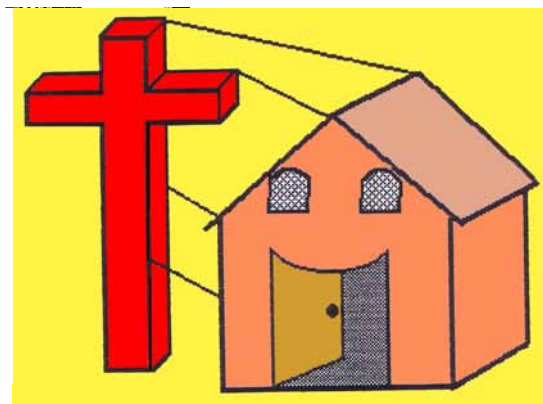
Rv 3:1 “And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.”



The sixth church, Philadelphia, was loving and was given a promise of God’s personal protection for its continuance and success.

Rv 3:8 “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.”

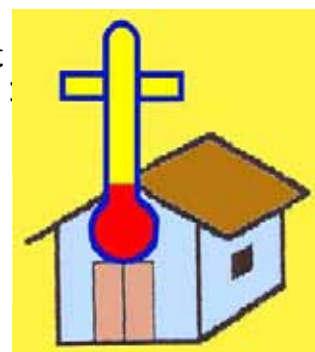
Rv 3:10 “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”



Then, finally, the seventh church, Laodicea, had lost its zeal and had stagnated into a spiritually dead condition that sickened the Lord and brought His promise of chastening if they did not repent.

Rv 3:16 “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

Rv 3:19 “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”



As I said at the beginning of this study, there are lessons that we can learn corporately as local churches from these examples of local churches that actually did exist during New Testament times. They had many of the different problems that have plagued churches ever since Christ instituted that first one during His time here on earth. Unfortunately, not only the authority and Commission has been passed down through the centuries from Christ to us in an unbroken line; but the problems, temptations, heresies, and false doctrines of false prophets and prophetesses, false priests, and false preachers and teachers have also been handed down to us; not from Christ

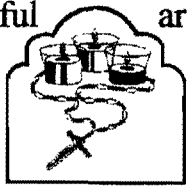
The Churches, in order by name, and the matching of each one to their main characteristics, will be questions on the Final Test- which will be a Closed Book Test.

but from the devil who has maliciously harassed us from then down to the present with a hatred that is staggering in its scope and tenaciousness. God preserved the stories of these churches and their problems to forewarn us of the different ways that the devil has of luring off churches into forbidden territory where God has to rebuke, chasten, and judge.

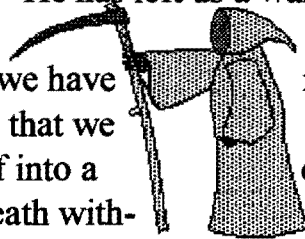
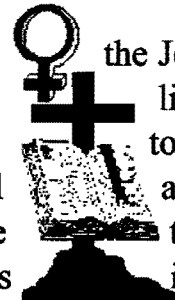
Since churches are the people, then we also can learn, personally, from these letters to the churches. We can learn of the problems that the people in those churches faced and the ways that God said they could overcome those problems. Those problems, corporately as churches, were problems in the daily lives of those people, and God has shown us that we must be wary because the devil knows that if the people fail and fall then the church comprised of those fallen soldiers will also fail and fall. Every day of our lives we are in a battle, personally, against Ephesian tendencies, or Laodicean tendencies, or Thyatiran tendencies in our Christian walk and talk. Or on the other hand, our lives may be made Smyrnanly (physically) miserable by the devil to the point where we feel we surely will die; and yet, God has shown us that we are promised a crown of life. Therefore, we are to remain faithful to Him and not live outwardly in our circumstances, which are but temporary, but inwardly where the Spirit is life eternal and God promises an abundant life here on earth, in spite of our circumstances.



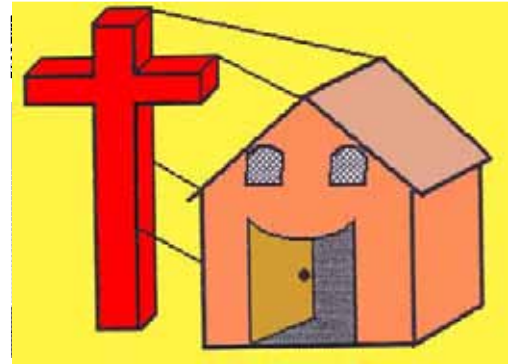
We are warned to be wary of any Pergamon tendencies to look to men and "religion" to rule over us instead of looking to God. Those men will lead us into sinful areas and sinful practices that would force God's chastisement to be poured out upon us.



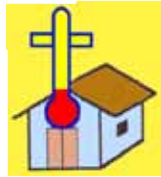
We are cautioned to be on the lookout for that the devil will use to infiltrate our daily lives. These he will use to try and cause us to turn to those about to even is clean contrary to the Word of God. He has left us a warning for our Sardian days of thinking that we are so self-efficient and self-sufficient, and that God can, "let us take care of this day." We think that we have living our lives in the flesh that we don't realize that for all intents and purposes we have put our spiritual self into a coma that, if it were possible (which it isn't) it would slip from there into death with- out our even being conscious that it was even happening. In such days we are preserved by God and have His promise that we can overcome any of those problems, through Christ. Then there are the days when God throws open the doors so wide that it is impossible for us to feel anything else but Philadelphian in our lives. We seize the opportunities that He sends our way to tell others about Christ our Saviour; and they accept so easily that it seems almost like the Holy Spirit had saved their soul before we even got there and that all we did was have the glorious opportunity to hear their profession of faith in Christ. And yet we DID lead them to Christ and the Holy Spirit used us to carry out God's word of redemption. And the letter to the local church there at Philadelphia was preserved for us so that



we will give glory to God. It reminds us that He is the one that uses us and empowers us, and gives us the pleasures of all of our Philadelphian days. And this reminder is also there to help us to recover from those days when we may lapse into an Ephesian, Pergamon, Thyatiran, or any of those other less godly days and attitudes, by reminding us that God is able to open the doors and let us out of our helpless, or arrogant, or mechanical, or every other way, devil orchestrated downer days no matter who is trying to keep us there. Even in those times that we are tied up, frustrated, and just generally bummed out, beat down, and useless for use by God and useless to ourselves as well, God can turn any such day into a Philadelphian day- IF WE LET HIM!



And then there are our Laodicean days when we are spiritually apathetic and listless and are simply going through the motions. As each day like this goes by we don't even realize our true condition and slip deeper and deeper into our apathy. We are so busy doing THINGS and living our lives in the flesh that we all think we are doing just fine and have everything we need. We go about doing Laodicean type of soul-winning, which is half-hearted at best and mostly non-existent. We serve God in best and mostly, if we exist. We read our and miss half of the



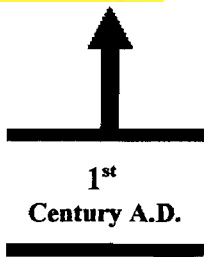
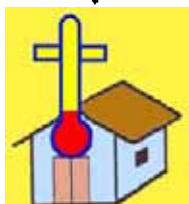
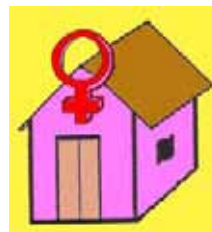
a Laodicean manner, which is half-hearted at its very would be truthful with ourselves, essentially non-Bible half-heartedly, go to church only half the time, messages when we are there because we are so pre-occupied with our mundane, half-happy, half-miserable, apathetic lives. We half-fight against the devil and half work for the Lord; but half the time we don't have the time to do either. We give half our tithes and half wonder where the other half went. And when we do half-mindedly think about God we halfway miss the closeness we once had and have "half-a-mind," to do something about it- one of these days; but, we never do seem to get around to it.

God has given us these different letters to let us know the traps and blessings that are ours for the taking in our Christian lives, daily; and to warn us to be wary of the traps and ready for the blessings. Remember, as the members go, so goes the church corporate. Therefore, God reminds us that the church corporate is there to not only help individuals through those tough days but also to rejoice with one another in the good days.

The letters are also there to warn us that when a church corporate is no longer functioning to help the individual members, when they allow sin to go unchecked in one another, and have not enough love toward the Lord and His Word as well as not enough love and concern toward one another to help lift up the fallen, then the church is already dead no matter how many other THINGS they may be doing. Each church, today and down through the centuries since Christ's first one, is and have always been as potentially subject to the problems and possible ends of each of those churches in the Revelation as were the individual members of which those and our present day churches were and are made up. This is only logical since the churches are the people; therefore, as the people go, so goes the church. It can be Ephesian, Thyatiran, Sardian,

Laodicean or any of the others. It can lean on God, as the Philadelphian church did, or it can lean on itself, as the Smyrnan church did. In every church there are Christians that are Ephesian, Laodicean, Philadelphian, Smyrnan, etc.; and it is up to each church to see that the negative ones are upheld by the positives and not allowed to ruin the church with Baalamism, Nicolaitanism, Jezebelism, or any other “ism” that could ruin the church corporately. If those who try to promote those “isms” will not stop when shown God’s warnings, then the church has no other recourse but to exercise church discipline in order to separate them from the church body so that God can deal with them. Otherwise, the whole church will feel the hand of God’s discipline along with the errant one. Sooner or later this will have to happen since their heretical teachings and aberrant actions will invariably infect the church as a whole. The choices and the warnings have both been given in the Revelation, and then God leaves it up to the churches to heed and act on the warnings, or choose to ignore them and suffer the consequences.

Lastly, since the book itself is prophetic in character, we also can apply the letters to the history of the development and spread of the churches down through history. In this kind of application, we can see that the character of each of the Revelation churches corresponds to a period of the history of the Christian church. The scholars, however, cannot agree which Revelation church corresponds to which historical dates. Even though, as I said, there are disagreements in the matter of which church represents what exact period, still, the application is a useful one.



May your church be
all of its
And may
God's blessings
as individuals and



Philadelphia in
ministries.
you receive
daily, both
as a Church.

And if persecution
way, may God uplift
promise of the
your



should come your
you with His
crown of life for
faithfulness.

The 3 ways we can apply this study,
corporately, personally, and historically,
will be a question on the Final test.
Final test will be Closed Book.

*In Christian love,
Dr. T.E. VanBuskirk*

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