

**The End Times Study**  
**The Seven Churches**  
**Revelation 2-3**

Last week we looked at a **Survey of this Church Age** according the Word of God. God did not leave us guessing about what would happen in this Church Age. We discovered in that study that,

- It is the Lord Jesus Christ who founded and built His Church.
- The Church would be Illuminated by the Word of God
- The Gospel would reach to the ends of the earth
- There would be Many False Christ's and Teachers
- There would be many with Reprobate heart and minds
- There would be severe persecution

Today we will discover more of what our Lord told us would be in this Church Age through the Seven Churches of the Revelation

**1. The Church Of Ephesus (Rev 2.1-7; John 14.15)**

- Notice this is the **Church of Ephesus (vs 1)**
- **Their Faithful Labor (vs 2-3)** - . . . *and hast not fainted (vs 3).*
- **Their Problem (vs 4-6)** - . . . *because thou hast left thy first love (vs 4).* - What does it look like when our love fails?

Jesus said,

*John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

When our love fails our surrender falters. Our obedience fails.

- **The Overcomer (vs7)** – In This case the overcomer Does not lose his first love. Which means He surrenders to the Lord Jesus Christ and obeys Him.

How can one say they love God with all their heart and disobey Him?

**2. The Church In Smyrna (Rev 2.8-11; Matt 10.16-26) – No Fault Mentioned**

- This is the **Church In Smyrna** (vs 8)
- **Their Suffering (vs 9-10)** – Tribulation and Persecution.
- **The proximity of The Synagogue Of Satan (vs 9)**

Our Lord warned us that we would be persecuted. He said,

*Matthew 10:16–22 - Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. <sup>17</sup>But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; <sup>18</sup>And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. <sup>20</sup>For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. <sup>21</sup>And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. <sup>22</sup>And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*

- **The Overcomer (vs 11)** is faithful unto death and will not be hurt or the second death. To be faithful unto death is to carry your testimony unto death.

How many Christians lose their testimony when faced with slight resistance? Only a few faithful will carry their full testimony through severe persecution. Our faltering destroys the gospel message.

### 3. The Church In Pergamos (Rev 2.12-17; 1 John 2.15)

- This is the **Church In Pergamos** (vs 12)
- These dwell where **Satans Seat Is** (vs 13).
- **Their Problems (vs 14-15)**

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- These are intoxicated by the **materialism of Balaam (vs 14)**. Which is the willingness to sell out on God for this world's treasures. Our Lord warned us that this world's treasures could cause us to falter.

*1 John 2:15 - Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

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- **The Doctrine of the Nicolaitans (vs 15)** – The separation of the clergy and the congregation. A priesthood to rule the believers.

- **The Overcomer (vs 17-18)** will eat of the hidden Manna and will have the stone with his name. Where is the hidden manna? It was placed in the ark of the covenant and is therefore in the very presence of God.

#### 4. The Church In Thyatira (Rev 2.18-29; 1 Tim 2.12)

- **The Church In Thyatira (vs 18)**
- **Their Problem (vs 20-25)** - This Church is a church filled with false doctrine. Notice that in this Church is **Jezebel and she is teaching**. I notice here that Jezebel is a woman and has taken up teaching and its authority. The New Testament states,

*1 Timothy 2:12 - But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.*

Women are to teach other women to love God and their homes, but they are not to teach men. I find it remarkable that this false doctrine ignores God's Word as many in our day do.

Jezebel's False teachings led Israel to worship Baal and to sacrifice their first born children to this satanic false God. Many Churches in our day call sin and iniquity right. Many are calling evil good and good evil.

- **The Overcomer (vs 26-29)** who does not hold to these false doctrines, but keeps the works of God unto the end shall rule the nations and will be given the morning star (vs 25-28).

## 5. The Church In Sardis (Rev 3.1-6; 1 John 3.1-3)

- This is The **Church In Sardis** (Rev 3.1)
- Their Problems (vs 1-4)
  - They have a name they live, but are dead (vs 1)
  - Their works are not perfect before God (vs 2)
  - They need to watch (vs 2-3)
  - They have defiled Garments (vs 4)

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*Revelation 19:8 - And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: **for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.***

Righteousness in the Word of God is not necessarily what you think is right, righteousness is what God says is right.

- **The Overcomer (vs 5)** - Will be clothed in white raiment

## 6. The Church In Philadelphia (Rev 3.7-13) – No Fault Mentioned

- This is the **Church In Philadelphia** (vs 7)
- The Church Of The Open Door (vs 7)
- They Kept The Word Of God's Patience (vs 10)
- **The Overcomer (vs 12)** A Crown in offered (vs 11) a pillar in the temple of God and A new name given (vs 12)

## 7. The Church Of The Laodicea (Rev 3.14-19)

- It is VERY IMPORTANT to notice the change in verbiage for Laodicea. This is not the Church in or at Laodicea, it is the **Church OF THE Laodiceans.** Now look at verse 20,

**Revelation 3:20** - 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.

**This is the Church where Christ is on the outside knocking to get in.**

The Church belongs to the people rather than the people becoming a part of a Church that belongs to Christ.

I would say that this very likely the democratic Church that permeates our American culture.

As a matter of our text the name Laodicea means “of the people.”

**How did Christ get evicted from this Church?**

**Revelation 3:17** - Because thou sayest, I **am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;** and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

- **The Overcomer (vs 21)** will find redemption in our Lord Jesus Christ and will be with Him, where His throne is. One could easily say the overcomer will truly be born again.

So we have survey the Seven Churches of the Revelation and notice their differing struggles and downfalls. Yet the recurring theme of this Church age from this text is **that one can and must Overcome.**

**We must all be overcomers.**

It is very important to note that God, nowhere in these two chapters says, leave the Church and just be a Church unto yourself. Instead He says be in Church and overcome in the midst of your Church and its trials. As a matter of the Word of God we are told,

**Hebrews 10:25** - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

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Find the Church that is holding the Word of God, Teaching the Word of God, and ministering in keeping with the Word of God and get in and serve with it.

The Church Age, according to God's revealed description of the things which are, will be replete with all kind of struggles and challenges. There is,

- Failing love for the Lord Jesus Christ – Lacking Obedience
- False teachers and greedy prophets
- Severe persecution
- Sin and iniquity right inside Churches
- Unsaved people who will say they are saved

Yet in the midst of it all the Overcoming Church is God's plan to bring the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

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**Be an Overcomer!**