

## LEARNING FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES

### Church Description

|              | MEANING              | KNOWN FACTS ABOUT LOCATION  | SYMBOLISM   |
|--------------|----------------------|---|---|
| Ephesus      | Desired one          | Western part of the Roman province of Asia. The book of Ephesians written to them.  | Apostolic church (A.D. 30-100)  |
| Smyrna       | Myrrh                | Surrounded by Ungodly Gentiles As well as Hostile Jews,   | Early church (100-316)  |
| Pergamum     | Thoroughly married   | Largely engulfed by Paganism, and Idol worship.   | Constantine (World Church) (316-800)                                  |
| Thyatira     | Continuous sacrifice | Famous for the making of purple dye.  | Roman Catholic Church (Medieval Church) (800-1517)(800-Tribulation)   |
| Sardis       | Those escaping       | Wealthy city that obtained wealth from textile manufacturing, Jewelry trade & dye industry. Pagan city with multiple small cults. | The Reformation (Rise of the state) (1517-1750) or (1517-Tribulation) |
| Philadelphia | Brotherly love       | Agriculturally rich, prosperous city.   | Modern church—true (Missionary) (1750-1900) or (1 750-Rapture)        |
| Laodicea     | The people ruling    | Located in a wealthy self-sufficient city with income from the wool industry.   | Modern church—false (1900-Tribulation)                                |

### Letters to the Church broken down

|                 | PRAISE  | REBUKE  | COMMAND  | PUNISHMENT   | REWARD   | Lesson learned  |
|-----------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>EPHESUS</b>  | Good works, patience, exposed false apostles, hated the practice of the Nicolaitans | Forsook the love you had at first.  | Remember the height from which you have fallen; return to your first love. | Removal of the candlestick   | Overcomers will eat from the Tree of Life in the midst of the paradise of God.                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our works matter</li> <li>• Patience is a must</li> <li>• We must expose those that are wrong.</li> <li>• Avoid wrong practices &amp; people</li> <li>• Love</li> </ul>  |
| <b>SMYRNA</b>   | Afflicted and poor yet they were rich   | No rebuke   | Do not be afraid; be faithful to the point of death.                       |  | The faithful will be given the crown of life; overcomers will not be hurt by the second death.         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our physical conditions cannot dictate our spiritual demeanor.</li> <li>• Though our surroundings and situations may be tough we must stay strong in God.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>PERGAMUM</b> | Remained true to the name of Christ; did not renounce their faith                   | Some held to the <u>teaching</u> of Bal-aam; yet others to the <u>teaching</u> of the Nicolaitans | Repent.  | Christ will come and fight against them <u>with the sword of his mouth</u> , | Overcomers will eat of the hidden manna and will be given a white stone with a new name written on it. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't let your surroundings influence you.</li> <li>• Only teach what is in line with SOUND doctrine.</li> <li>• Know God's Word and don't be swayed by other teaching.</li> <li>• Not tolerate those that teach &amp; follow wrong teachings</li> </ul> |

|                     | <b>PRAISE</b>   | <b>REBUKE</b>   | <b>COMMAND</b>  | <b>PUNISHMENT</b>   | <b>REWARD</b>  | <b>Lesson learned</b>  |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| <b>THYATIRA</b>     | Good deeds, love and faith, service and perseverance; doing more than they did at first | Toleration of Jezebel   | Repent.   | Jezebel will suffer intensely, along with those who commit adultery with her. Her children will be struck dead. God will repay each one according to his deeds. | Overcomers will be given authority over the nations and will rule with an iron scepter. They will also be given the morning star.          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in Good works and Patience.</li> <li>• Check all teachers and what is taught.</li> <li>• Check and clear our hearts and minds.</li> <li>• We are held accountable for all of our deeds.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>SARDIS</b>       | A few people had not soiled their clothes   | Had <u>reputation</u> of being alive, but <u>they were dead</u>               | Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die; obey what you have received and heard. Repent.  | Christ will come like a thief in the night to those who do not wake up.   | Overcomers will be dressed in white, and their names will not be blotted out from the Book of Life. They will be recognized before angels. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Be Godly”; don’t just give the “perception” of being Godly, God is the measure.</li> <li>• Be awake and alert to fix what’s wrong.</li> <li>• Even if the Church doesn’t straighten up each individual can.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> | Kept the Word of God and did not deny his name endured patiently                        | No rebuke   | Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.  |   | Overcomers will be made pillars in the temple of God. A new name will be given to them.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even when we are physically, mentally, politically, financially...weak, we must stay spiritually strong.</li> <li>• Hold on no matter what.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>LAODICEA</b>     | No praise   | Lukewarm; false sense of security; wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. | Buy gold that is tried in the fire, white clothes to cover your shameful nakedness, and eye salve to heal your blindness. Invite Christ in. | Christ will spew them out of his mouth  | Overcomers will sit with Christ on his throne  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are not 100% a Christian, you’re not a Christian at all.</li> <li>• Make sure your comfort is not your demise. That’s in; health, finances, position, all circumstances.</li> <li>• Know what true value is and what real comfort is.</li> <li>• God rebukes and disciplines those he loves</li> </ul> |

**Responsibility of the Church** - Eph 4:11-13 - 11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**Outcome of a responsible Church** - Eph 4:14-16 - 14 **Then** we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 **Instead**, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

### **Summary**

- **The Priority** – The primary purpose is to prepare Gods people to minister and save others. Good deeds must exist.
- **The Truth** – making sure they are staying firm in the Bible and exposing and removing those that do not.
- **The Character** – The character is based on God not based on the world.

## Seven Churches titles for Christ

Rev 2:1 Him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands:

- seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. (Rev 1:20)

Rev 2:8 - Him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

- He is forever – ((Isa 44:6 ) (Rev 1:17-18) (Rev 22:13)( Isa 48:12)
- HE is the only God (Isa 44:6 )

Rev 2:12 - Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

- Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Eph 6:17 )
- It's the only thing that can truly judge our mind, body and spirit. It prepares us for our judgement with God (Heb 4:12-13)
- The Sword will also be used to punish and execute God's Wrath (Rev 19:15)

Rev 2:18 - the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

- Description of Jesus in Glory (Dan 10:4-6)( Rev 1:14-15)( Rev 19:11-15)

Rev 3:1-2 - him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

- the seven spirits and Lamps before his throne of God (Rev 1:4) (Rev 4:5)
- The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches (Rev 1:20)
- seven horns and seven eyes, **which are** the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth that Jesus had (Rev 5:6)

Rev 3:7 - Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

- He is, holy and true, (Rev 6:10)
- The final king of Israel (Isa 22:20-22)

Rev 3:14 - Words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.

- He is the AMEN what he say So BE IT
  - He is Faithful and True. (Rev 19:11)
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