



John's Vision: Seven Churches
Revelation 2 & 3

SCRIPTURE

Chapter 2

¹ “Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write;

‘These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; ² “I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ³ And hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name's sake hast laboured, and hast not

fainted. ⁴Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. ⁵Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto

thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of His place, except thou repent.

⁶But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

⁷“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” ’

⁸“And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write;

‘These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; ⁹“I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Fear 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.

¹¹“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.” ’

¹²“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write;

‘These things saith He which hath the sharp sword with two edges; ¹³“I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast My name, and hast not denied My faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. ¹⁴But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. ¹⁵So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

¹⁷“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.” ’

¹⁸“And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write;

‘These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and His feet are like fine brass; ¹⁹“I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. ²⁰Notwithstanding 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. ²¹And I gave

her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. ²²Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. ²³And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am He which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

²⁴ “But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. ²⁵But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. ²⁶And he that overcometh, and keepeth My works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

²⁷ ‘And he shall rule them with a rod of iron;
as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers:’
even as I received of My Father. ²⁸And I will give him the morning star.

²⁹ “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” ’

Chapter 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. ²Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. ³Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. ⁴Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy. ⁵He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.

⁶ “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” ’

⁷ “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write;

‘These things saith He that is holy, He that is true, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; 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. ⁹Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. ¹⁰Because 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. ¹¹Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. ¹²Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in

the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him My new name.

¹³ “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” ’

¹⁴ “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write;

‘These things saith the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵ “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth. ¹⁷Because 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: ¹⁸I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

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

²⁰Behold, 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. ²¹To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.

²² “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” ’ ”

COMMENTARY

In Chapters 2 & 3 Jesus speaks to the Pastors of the seven churches in Asia Minor. There is a threefold message given to us in the challenges to these seven churches.

1. The messages speak to seven literal churches that were in Asia Minor at that time. Christ outlines the good and the evil that is going on at that time, and issues a warning if they fail to repent.
2. The messages speak to any church in any age. These conditions can and do exist in the churches in any age, and the warnings are relevant.
3. The messages declare the digression of the churches through the ages. Each church speaks of a period of time, also called a church age, through which the church has moved from the time of Christ’s revelation to His return.

The things which are: Chapters 2 & 3.

Chapter 2:1-7 Christ speaks to Ephesus, the backslidden Church. The dates of this

church age run from about 50 AD to 150 AD.

Chapter 2:8-11 Christ speaks to the church at Smyrna, the persecuted church. The dates of this church age run from 150 AD to 312 AD.

Chapter 2:12-17 Christ speaks to the church at Pergamum, the licentious church. The dates of this church age run from 312 AD to 606 AD.

Chapter 2:18-29 Christ speaks to the church at Thyatira, the lax church. The dates of this church age run from 606 AD to 1520 AD.

Chapter 3:1-6 Christ speaks to the church at Sardis, the dead church. The dates of this church age run from 1520 AD to 1750 AD.

Chapter 3:7-13 Christ speaks to the church at Philadelphia, the favored church. The dates of this church age run from 1750 AD to 1900 AD.

Chapter 3:14-22 Christ speaks to the church at Laodicea, the lukewarm church. The dates of this church age run from 1900 to today.