

THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Recap and Summary

(Revelation 2:1-3:22)

I. The THREAT to the Churches

- A. Ephesus: danger of LOSING our FIRST LOVE (Rev. 2:4)
- B. Smyrna: danger of FEAR of SUFFERING (Rev. 2:10)
- C. Pergamum: danger of DOCTRINAL compromise (Rev. 2:14-15)
- D. Thyatira: danger of MORAL compromise (Rev. 2:20)
- E. Sardis: danger of SPIRITUAL DEADNESS (Rev. 3:1-2)
- F. Philadelphia: danger of LOSING HOPE (Rev. 3:11)
- G. Laodicea: danger of SPIRITUAL compromise (Rev. 3:15-16)

II. The MASTER of the Churches

- A. His position
 - 1. STANDING in their MIDST (1:12-13)
 - 2. HOLDING their MESSENGERS in His hand (1:16)
- B. His power
 - 1. Has ALL AUTHORITY over the churches (2:1)
 - 2. Has ALL KNOWLEDGE of the churches' conditions (2:2a, 9a, 13a, 19a; 3:1b, 8a, 15a)
 - 3. Is ETERNAL (2:8)
 - 4. Triumphs over INJUSTICE and DEATH (2:8b)

5. Exercises absolute SOVEREIGNTY over all (2:12)
6. Exercises perfectly DISCERNING judgment (2:18)
7. Provides POWER, BLESSING and SECURITY through the Holy Spirit (3:1a)
8. Controls all DOORS, especially to the KINGDOM (3:7)
9. Is the absolutely trustworthy ORIGIN of all CREATION (3:14)

III. The DESTINY of the Churches

- A. Guaranteed JUDGMENT upon the UNBELIEVERS in the assemblies (2:14-16, 20-23; 3:4)
- B. Guaranteed ETERNAL BLESSINGS for genuine BELIEVERS (“overcomers” cf. 1 John 5:5)
 1. Unfettered access to the TREE of LIFE (2:7; cf. 22:2)
 2. Deliverance from the SECOND DEATH (2:11; cf. 20:6)
 3. Eternal identification by a NEW NAME (2:17; cf. 22:4)
 4. Eternal fellowship with the “MORNINGSTAR,” which is CHRIST (2:28; cf. 22:16)
 5. Clothed in “WHITE GARMENTS” of personal RIGHTEOUSNESS (3:5; cf. 19:8)
 6. Eternal RESIDENCE in the New JERUSALEM (3:12; cf. 21:2)
 7. Eternal relationship with Christ’s THRONE (3:21; cf. 20:4)

IV. The CHARGE to the Churches

- A. Must PERSEVERE through TRIALS (2:2-3, 9-10, 13; 3:9-10)
- B. Must SAFEGUARD the TRUTH (2:2, 13, 24-26; 3:2, 18-19)
- C. Must HEED the LORD (2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22)
 1. Churches today face the same PROBLEMS/ISSUES
 2. Churches today have the same WARNINGS
 3. Churches today have the same PROMISES