



Jesus challenges the church in Ephesus to be a congregation of great love. He calls on the congregation in Smyrna to be steadfast in suffering persecution. Believers in Pergamos are reminded to hold firmly to the truth. To the Christians in Thyatira He commands to live lives of moral purity. Jesus calls us to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Outline

- **Chapter Preview** Introduction
- **Ephesus: Loveless** Revelation 2:1-7
- **Smyrna: Persecuted**..... Revelation 2:8-11
- **Pergamos: Compromising** Revelation 2:12-17
- **Thyatira: Corrupt** Revelation 2:18-29

Truths & Principles

- ✓ Because of His awesome authority, Christ has the right to criticize and command repentance.
- ✓ Virtues that please Christ include love for one another, faith, hard work, perseverance amid afflictions, and hold true His name.
- ✓ Satan is the driving power behind much of the evil that Christians endure.
- ✓ Christ makes special promises to believers who face persecution and martyrdom for His name's sake.
- ✓ All who overcome in this life through faith and perseverance will receive eternal life and share in Christ's rule.

Preview

The second section of the book of Revelation contains the Letters to the Seven Churches (*chapters 2-3*). These are personal epistles from the risen Christ to seven literal churches in Asia Minor. These letters give us an idea of what Christ thinks of the Church - His "*report card*".

Applications

- ✓ Love one another greatly.
- ✓ Be confident, the Lord knows every detail of our circumstances.
- ✓ Be steady in persecution and suffering.
- ✓ Hold firmly to the truth.
- ✓ Resist compromise – it is often the first step toward total disobedience.
- ✓ Live a life of absolute moral purity.
- ✓ Be alert to the possibility of false teachers.
- ✓ Tolerance of bad teaching has no place in the church.



Test all things; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21

1. What does Jesus say the Ephesians had left (2:4)? _____
2. What deeds did Jesus say He hates (2:6)? _____
3. Who did Jesus call the faithful martyr (2:13)? _____
4. What doctrine was Pergamos holding to (2:14)? _____
5. What does Jesus command Pergamos to do (2:16)? _____
6. What food is offered to those who overcome (2:17)? _____
7. What is written on the white stone given by Jesus (2:17)? _____
8. Who did Jesus threaten to cast into a sickbed (2:22)? _____

Study Questions

1. Can you remember the first time you first fell in love with Jesus? What was that like?
 - ❖ Describe the attitudes & actions of someone who is in love with Jesus?
 - ❖ Describe the attitudes & actions of someone who has fallen out of love with Jesus?
2. Jesus promises the crown of life to those who remain faithful even when facing death. Read the following scriptures that describe the Five Crowns of the Believer.
 1. **Crown of Exultation:** ☐ 1 Thessalonians 2:19For those who _____ .
 2. **Crown of Righteousness:** ☐ 2 Timothy 4:8For those who _____ .
 3. **Crown of Life:** ☐ James 1:12 ☐ Revelation 2:10.....For those who _____ .
 4. **Crown of Imperishability:** ☐ 1 Corinthians 9:25 ...For those who _____ .
 5. **Crown of Glory:** ☐ 1 Peter 5:4For those who _____ .

In what ways do these verses motivate you to live for Christ now?
3. Can you think of any modern-day “Jezebels” who are leading Christians astray?
 - ❖ What is the best defense against false prophets?
 - ❖ Read ☐ 2 Timothy 3:1-9 ... What insights do these verses give you?