

modern day
TURKEY

Pergamos

Smyrna

Ephesus

Laodicea

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Lessons from the 7 churches

LAODICEA

- Wretched
- Miserable
- Poor
- Blind
- Naked



Lukewarm - Complacent

PERGAMUM

- Held fast Jesus Name
- Did not deny the faith (even when Antipas was killed)
- Courageous in the face of death
- However, Neutral vs Action



Sin of Neutrality

EPHESUS

- Active workers in the Kingdom
- They tested those who claimed to be apostles
- Persevered and refused to tolerate false teaching
- Did not lose heart during their tribulations
- However, they left their first love



Left their first love

SMYRNA

- 1 of 2 that received only praises
- Withstanding tribulation even in the face of poverty
- Resisted the false accusations of the Jews
- Warned that even more tribulation was coming



Living faithfully through persecution

SARDIS

- History of wealth, invented the coin system we use today
- Perceived as alive to the world, but God saw them as dead
- Some in the group had reminded faithful
- Repent because Jesus will come as a thief



Alive to the world, but dead to God

PHILADELPHIA

- 1 of 2 that received only praises
- Small in number
- Stood strong in the face of attacks by the Jews
- Did not deny God's name
- Perseverance is an expectation by God, not an option



Kept the command to preserve

THYATIRA

- Large guild presence
- Praised for their works, love, service, faith, and patience
- Allowed a false prophetess to influence their members
- The faithful must remain pure



The compromised church

Church	Known For	Praised	Condemned	Conclusion
Smyrna	Lived faithfully through persecution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stood strong in face of tribulation - Resisted false accusations and blasphemy 	- Nothing	- More persecution was coming, Hold Fast
Philadelphia	Kept the command to persevere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small in number but served the Lord - Spiritual warfare against the synagogue of Satan, the Jews 	- Nothing	- Hold fast
Ephesus	Left their 1st Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active workers in the Kingdom - Tested those who claimed to be apostles - Refused to tolerate false teaching - Kept heart during tribulations 	- Left their zeal/ passion for Christ	- Give God our hearts and obedience
Pergamum	The neutral church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held fast Jesus Name - Did not deny my faith - Courageous in the face of death 	- Stood neutral to address those following Nicolaitans and Balaam	- Address and respond to sin, no matter where it occurs
Thyatira	The compromised church	- Acknowledged their works, love, service, faith, patience, and continued growth	- Allowed false prophetess to compromise the group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Judgement is coming - Faithful to remain clean
Sardis	Alive to the world, but dead to God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some were considered faithful - There was some good occurring 	- While they were perceived as active, God saw them as dead	- Repent, God will return as a thief
Laodicea	Lukewarm	- Nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compromised by the society and culture - Neither hot or cold for God 	- To Repent

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

- God knows what we are doing



LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Proverbs 5:21 “For the ways of man [are] before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths.”

Proverbs 15:3 “The eyes of the LORD [are] in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.”

Hebrews 4:13 “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

- God knows what we are doing
- A church can be deceived



LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Revelation 3:14-17 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,... 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--”

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Revelation 3:1 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.”’

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

- God knows what we are doing
- A church can be deceived
- Perseverance in the face of persecutions



LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Pergamum: Revelation 2:13 “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne *is*. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.”

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Ephesus: Revelation 2:2-3 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; “and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.”

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Philadelphia: Revelation 3:8 “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Smyrna: Revelation 2:9-10 ““I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and *I know* the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

2 Timothy 3:12 “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

- God knows what we are doing
- A church can be deceived
- Perseverance in the face of persecutions
- Being faithful matters



LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Revelation 2:2-5 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. 4 "Nevertheless I have [this] against you, that you have left your first love. 5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

1 John 1:5-7 “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

- God knows what we are doing
- A church can be deceived
- Perseverance in the face of persecutions
- Being faithful matters
- Repentance must occur when error is present



LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Revelation 2:16 ““Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.”

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Revelation 2:21-22 ““And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.”

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Revelation 3:3 “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.”

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Revelation 3:19 “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

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LESSONS FROM THE 7 CHURCHES

Revelation 3:20-22 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”