

Revelation 2

THE CHURCH

Introductory

The message to the seven churches is one of exhortation, warning and edification and applies to past and future believers and churches.

This message is so important to us because it shows what Christ loves, hate and what he condemns.

While this message tells the consequences of spiritual neglect and disobedience, it also shows the rewards that will be received for faithfulness.

Will expose Satan's methods for attacking the church and individual Christians.

Revelation 2:1-2

¹ “To the messenger of the church in Ephesus, write:

The one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lamp stands, says:

² I know what you have done—how hard you have worked and how you have endured. I also know that you cannot tolerate wicked people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles but are not apostles. You have discovered that they are liars.

Revelation 2:3-5

³ You have endured, suffered trouble because of my name, and have not grown weary.

⁴ However, I have this against you: The love you had at first is gone.

⁵ Remember how far you have fallen. Return to me and change the way you think and act, and do what you did at first. I will come to you and take your lamp stand from its place if you don't change.

Revelation 2:6

⁶ But you have this in your favor—you hate what the Nicolaitans are doing. I also hate what they're doing.

^{2 John 1:9} Everyone who doesn't continue to teach what Christ taught doesn't have God. The person who continues to teach what Christ taught has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and doesn't bring these teachings, don't take him into your home or even greet him. ¹¹ Whoever greets him shares the evil things he's doing.

Note: Christ praises the church and individuals for teaching his word truthfully.

Revelation 2:7

⁷ “Let the person who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. I will give the privilege of eating from the tree of life, which stands in the paradise of God, to everyone who wins the victory.

What we learned from the first Church God Loves:

- ▶ Two Greatest Commandments:“ Matthew 22:37-39‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and most important commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’
- ▶ Service
- ▶ Faith
- ▶ Repentance
- ▶ Christ praises the church and individuals for teaching his word truthfully.

God Hates

- ▶ When you don't honor Him
- ▶ When you abandon God's Principles.

Revelation 2:8-10

⁸ “To the messenger of the church in Smyrna, write:

The first and the last, who was dead and became alive, says:

⁹ I know how you are suffering, how poor you are—but you are rich. I also know that those who claim to be Jews slander you. They are the synagogue of Satan.

¹⁰ Don’t be afraid of what you are going to suffer. The devil is going to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested. Your suffering will go on for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Luke 12:16-21 KJV

- ▶ ¹⁶ And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? ¹⁸ And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry. ²⁰ But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? ²¹ So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

1 Tim 6:17-19

KJV

¹⁷ Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; ¹⁸ That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; ¹⁹ Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

GW

¹⁷ Tell those who have the riches of this world not to be arrogant and not to place their confidence in anything as uncertain as riches. Instead, they should place their confidence in God who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ Tell them to do good, to do a lot of good things, to be generous, and to share. ¹⁹ By doing this they store up a treasure for themselves which is a good foundation for the future. In this way they take hold of what life really is.

James 2:5

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters! Didn't God choose poor people in the world to become rich in faith and to receive the kingdom that he promised to those who love him? ⁶ Yet, you show no respect to poor people. Don't rich people oppress you and drag you into court? ⁷ Don't they curse the good name [of Jesus], the name that was used to bless you?

- We learned from the 2nd church that we may have to go through some trying times but be faithful even if death calls upon us.

Revelation 2:11

¹¹ Let the person who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. Everyone who wins the victory will never be hurt by the second death.

2nd Death – Revelation 20:6, 20:14 & Revelation 21:8

This refers to the lake of fire which only the faithful overcomers will escape.

Revelation 2:12-13

¹² “To the messenger of the church in Pergamos, write:

The one who holds the sharp two-edged sword says:

¹³ I know where you live. Satan’s seat (or throne) is there. You hold on to my name and have not denied your belief in me, even in the days of Antipas. He was my faithful witness who was killed in your presence, where Satan lives.

Pergamos was a place of great idol worship. Satan’s seat may mean the place where Satan had the most influence.

Notes for vs. 13

Revelation 2:13 is the only reference to Antipas who was a faithful martyr whom died in Pergamos “where Satan dwells”. According to history, John the apostle ordained Antipas as Bishop of Pergamos during the reign of the Roman emperor Domitian.

He was martyred in 92 AD. They placed him in a brazen bull shaped altar, made entirely with bronze and hollow on the inside. They use this brazen bull for criminal torture. They would open a door that was built on the side of the bull, shut the door and fire would be lit under the bull until the metal became yellow hot, roasting the person on the inside of it. On the calendars of Eastern Christianity the feast of Antipas is April 11.

Revelation 2:14-16

- ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you: You have among you those who follow what Balaam taught Balak. Balak trapped the people of Israel by [encouraging] them to eat food sacrificed to idols and to sin sexually.
- ¹⁵ You also have some who follow what the Nicolaitans teach.
- ¹⁶ So return to me and change the way you think and act, or I will come to you quickly and wage war against them with the sword from my mouth.

Notes for Vs. 14-16: Life in The Spirit Study Bible

Balaam was a false prophet who sold his services to a heathen King and advised him to tempt Israel to compromise their faith by adultery and immorality.

The teaching of Balaam therefore refers to corrupt teachers and preachers who were leading people into fatal compromise and immorality, worldliness and false ideologies, all for the sake of personal advancement or monetary gain. The church at Pergamos evidently had teachers who felt that saving faith and a lifestyle of immorality were compatible.

Jesus opposes any within his church who promote a tolerant attitude towards sin. He promises to wage war against immoral professing believers if they do not repent.

Revelation 2:17

¹⁷ Let the person who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. I will give some of the hidden manna to everyone who wins the victory. I will also give each person a white stone with a new name written on it, a name that is known only to the person who receives it.

Revelation 2:18-20

¹⁸ “To the messenger of the church in Thyatira, write:

The Son of God, whose eyes are like flames of fire and whose feet are like glowing bronze, says:

¹⁹ I know what you do. I know your love, faith, service, and endurance. I also know that what you are doing now is greater than what you did at first.

²⁰ But I have something against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. She teaches and misleads my servants to sin sexually and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

Revelation 2:21-23

²¹ I gave her time to turn to me and change the way she thinks and acts, but she refuses to turn away from her sexual sins.

²² Watch me! I'm going to throw her into a sickbed. Those who commit sexual sins with her will also suffer a lot, unless they turn away from what she is doing.

²³ I will kill her children. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches hearts and minds. I will reward each of you for what you have done.

Revelation 2:24-27

²⁴ But the rest of you in Thyatira—all who don't hold on to Jezebel's teaching, who haven't learned what are called the deep things of Satan—I won't burden you with anything else.

²⁵ Just hold on to what you have until I come.

²⁶ I have received authority from my Father. I will give authority over the nations to everyone who wins the victory and continues to do what I want until the end.

²⁷ Those people will rule the nations with iron scepters and shatter them like pottery.

Revelation 2:28-29

²⁸ I will also give them the morning star.

²⁹ Let the person who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

Pastor Crawford's Notes

Note: Pastor Crawford has just completed his series: **Developing our ears to hear God.**

Pastor mentioned that we were not born with spiritual ears and that we had to learn how to develop and use our spiritual ears. Becoming more sensitive to the voice of God.

What God Hates

- ▶ These six things does the Lord Hate:
- ▶ Sexual Immorality
- ▶ Manipulation
- ▶ False teaching, not staying true to the Word of God
- ▶ Blasphemy
- ▶ Pretending
- ▶ Fornication
- ▶ False Witness
- ▶ Pride

What God Loves

- ▶ Love
- ▶ Service
- ▶ Faith
- ▶ Patience
- ▶ Righteousness
- ▶ Approach False Teaching - guidelines
- ▶ Give God Credit
- ▶ Repent
- ▶ Hear what the Spirit says to the Church

Proverbs 6:16-19 KJV

- ¹⁶ These six *things* doth the Lord hate: Yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:
- ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,
- ¹⁸ An heart that devises wicked imaginations, Feet that be swift in running to mischief,
- ¹⁹ A false witness *that* speak lies, And he that soweth discord among brethren.

Proverbs 6:16-19 GW

- 16 There are six things that the Lord hates, even seven that are disgusting to him:
- 17 arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill innocent people,
- 18 a mind devising wicked plans, feet that are quick to do wrong,
- 19 a dishonest witness spitting out lies, and a person who spreads conflict among relatives.