

# Revelation

Led by Dr. Greg Butler - "PG"

Session 5

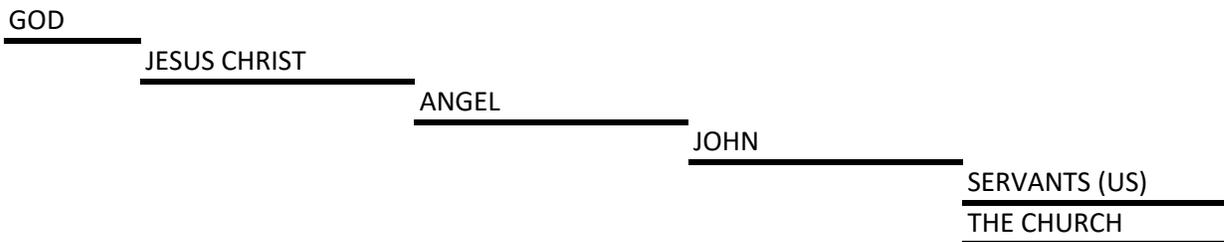
Chapter 2:1-2:11

It is **IMPOSSIBLE** to gain any understanding of Revelation without being born-again!

Remember....Only **GOD** has all the answers!

**WARNING!!! SATAN** does not want you to learn the **TRUTH** of God's plan!

The "STEPS" OF REVELATION



Seven stars = messenger/\_\_\_\_\_ of seven churches. Seven lampstands = Seven churches.

## The Seven Churches

Each were a **CONGREGATION**.

Each had a spiritual **CONDITION**.

All but one had a **COMMENDATION**.

All but two had a **CONDEMNATION**.

All but two had a **CONSEQUENCE**.

Each represent seven basic \_\_\_\_\_ in church history.

Look at Revelation 2:1-7

## THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS - The Congregation

Ephesus was one of the finest and largest churches of The New Testament. It was begun by the Apostle \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of his second missionary journey. (Acts 18:19-20)

It was a wicked city that was dedicated to the worship of the goddess Artemis.

This church exhibited spiritual vitality, depth, and dedication to the Scriptures.

Of the seven churches mentioned, it is the only one where reference is made to the \_\_\_\_\_.

The name Ephesus means "\_\_\_\_\_ one." It was also known for its fervent evangelism.

It had a large percentage of \_\_\_\_\_ converts.

In Revelation, Ephesus represents The "early" or " \_\_\_\_\_ " church. This was the most desirable of all the churches or church \_\_\_\_\_.

THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS - The Condition

Ephesus was "going through the motions" \_\_\_\_\_ the fervor is once had for The Great Commission.

Look at Revelation 2:2

THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS - The Commendation

"I know your works..."

Jesus is commending the church for it's good \_\_\_\_\_ in Christian service.

"your toil, and your patient endurance..."

Jesus is commending the church for not giving up in spite of \_\_\_\_\_.

"and how you cannot bear with those who are evil..."

The church would not \_\_\_\_\_ for those of evil.

The Greek word for "church" is "ecclesia" which literally means " \_\_\_\_\_ - out ones".

A true/authentic church is a church that although it is " \_\_\_\_\_ " the world, it refuses to be " \_\_\_\_\_ " the world!

The church refused to participate in " \_\_\_\_\_ -warm Christianity.

The church of Ephesus took seriously the practice of Church \_\_\_\_\_.

"but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false."

The church at Ephesus would not be taken in by \_\_\_\_\_ apostles.

Today, there are many false apostles \_\_\_\_\_ as servants of Christ but who are really enemies of The Cross.

The "ecclesiastical" \_\_\_\_\_ of "ecumania" (a one-world church regardless of one's faith) is \_\_\_\_\_ whenever and wherever it is found.

Look at Revelation 2:3

The church at Ephesus was a \_\_\_\_\_ church, in both message and ministry. It was \_\_\_\_\_ fainthearted. It focused on presentation of The Gospel.

In summary, The church at Ephesus was:

- A \_\_\_\_\_ church.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ church.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ church.
- An \_\_\_\_\_ church.
- An \_\_\_\_\_ church.

Look at Revelation 2:4

### THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS - The Condemnation

Although basically \_\_\_\_\_, they fell into the "trap" of spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

They indeed loved The Lord, but had lost their \_\_\_\_\_ for The King-Jesus Christ, and His \_\_\_\_\_ - His people.

The church was becoming an " \_\_\_\_\_ " instead of an " \_\_\_\_\_ ".

There is \_\_\_\_\_ such thing as a "The Holy Honeymoon is over!"

Look at Revelation 2:5

### THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS - The Counsel

The Lord Jesus Christ gives the church some \_\_\_\_\_:

\_\_\_\_\_ - "therefore from where you have fallen..."

\_\_\_\_\_ - "and..."

\_\_\_\_\_ - "the works you did at first."

### THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS - The Consequence

"If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you \_\_\_\_\_."

If the church did not change, it would move from " \_\_\_\_\_ " to " \_\_\_\_\_ " both "then" and "when" Christ returns.

"unless you \_\_\_\_\_."

Look at Revelation 2:6

### THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS - The "Common Ground"

The Lord and the church at Ephesus \_\_\_\_\_ the Nicolaitans.

Question: Does God "hate"? Answer is " \_\_\_\_\_ " but by God's definition, not ours.

#### Biblical definition of "Hate"

"to \_\_\_\_\_, abhor, to love less; to set against; to \_\_\_\_\_."

Hebrew = "satam" Greek = "miseo"

#### The Nicolaitans

Although there are several theories, the most logical would be that this was an apostate \_\_\_\_\_.

It was founded by Nicolaus of Antioch, who led people \_\_\_\_\_ from Biblical \_\_\_\_\_.

It was an Antinomian \_\_\_\_\_ cult which emphasized (among other things) that one must \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ in order to understand it.

They gave themselves over to \_\_\_\_\_ under the guise that such \_\_\_\_\_ did not touch the spirit.

### Antinomian

One who basically believes that by grace they do \_\_\_\_\_ have to obey mosaic law or social \_\_\_\_\_ . "I am forgiven, so it's o.k. to sin"

### Gnostic

This is an " \_\_\_\_\_ " term that refers to early Christian movements that shared certain common beliefs.

Gnostics believed in God, but had a very \_\_\_\_\_ view of The Trinity. They did not accept the Triune nature of God as Scripture clearly teaches.

Moreover, what they considered "God" was not God at all. To the early Gnostics, God was either evil incarnate or He was just trying to do His best.

The grumpy God of The Old Testament was called the \_\_\_\_\_ God - "the demerge".

The \_\_\_\_\_ God was called "the monad".

Also, the \_\_\_\_\_ "unGod" was called "the monad".

Jesus was an "entity". They sought "carnal" and " \_\_\_\_\_ " knowledge

They were influenced by Greek philosophers like Plato. They \_\_\_\_\_ "works".

They followed "feelings" more than " \_\_\_\_\_ ".

Look at Revelation 2:7

### THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS - The "Command"

"He who has an ear, let him hear what The Spirit says to the churches."

Scholars believe this implies three kinds of individuals:

1. Those \_\_\_\_\_ "Spiritual" ears.
2. Those with "Spiritual" ears but who \_\_\_\_\_ to listen.
3. Those with "Spiritual" ears who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### The "Promise"

"To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the paradise of God."

The Tree of Life is in The Garden of \_\_\_\_\_ from which Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat after their sin.

The born-again believer has \_\_\_\_\_ no matter the spiritual warfare faced!

Overcoming the world is the \_\_\_\_\_ that takes place in the life of the one who puts their faith in Jesus Christ.

There is \_\_\_\_\_ other way by which one can become an overcomer than through Jesus Christ!

Look at Revelation 2:8-11

THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA - The "Congregation"

"Smyrna" means "myrrh" and carries the meaning of \_\_\_\_\_.

Smyrna was the church that suffered great \_\_\_\_\_. It is known as the "martyr" church.

Smyrna (modern day Izmir) was a wealthy city that had not time for Christians. The city was planned and built under the leadership of Alexander The Great. The city was the commercial center of Asia Minor.

The \_\_\_\_\_ segment was not religious and was neglectful of spiritual things.

Smyrna was a most \_\_\_\_\_ church in the face of persecution even unto \_\_\_\_\_.

THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA - The Condition

Smyrna was a \_\_\_\_\_ church. Smyrna was a \_\_\_\_\_ church.

Smyrna was a " \_\_\_\_\_ " church. Smyrna was an \_\_\_\_\_ church.

Look at Revelation 2:8

THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA - The "Congregation"

John is writing to the "angel" (messenger/ \_\_\_\_\_) of the church in Smyrna.

The Glorified Christ emphasizes His eternal \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus identifies Himself as our eternal \_\_\_\_\_ Who prepared The Way through death to life!

Look at Revelation 2:9

THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA - The Commendation

The Lord is commending Smyrna for the "works" of the \_\_\_\_\_. It is important to note the word "works" is \_\_\_\_\_ in early manuscripts.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ things in this church The Lord commended:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - This is not referring to The Tribulation but to a season of many \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ - The church was in lack of material possessions. The early Christians were largely impoverished. Whenever a person of "means" or wealth joined the church in Smyrna, their possessions were confiscated because of their \_\_\_\_\_.

"(but you are rich)" Denotes the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of the church. They were blessed with all spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ - Look at Romans 9:1-8

The Jews who came to Christ in Smyrna were Jews \_\_\_\_\_ and outwardly.

Smyrna was a city full of Jews who disregarded their belief in The Old Testament. They became " \_\_\_\_\_ " in their faith.

Look at Revelation 2:10

4. \_\_\_\_\_ - The Lord gives the church \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of persecution.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ - The Lord advises the church of the \_\_\_\_\_ of all persecution.

6. Tribulation 10 days - The persecuted church age suffered ten " \_\_\_\_\_ " of persecution.

Nero - A.D. 54-68 ( \_\_\_\_\_ beheaded / \_\_\_\_\_ crucified)

Dominian - A.D. 81-96 ( \_\_\_\_\_ exiled) Trajan - A.D. 98-117 ( \_\_\_\_\_ burned at the stake.)

Ignatius was an early Christian writer and bishop of Antioch.

Marcus Aurelius - A.D. 161-180 ( \_\_\_\_\_ killed.) He was an outspoken defender of the morality of the Christian life.

Severus - A.D. 193-211 / Maximinius - A.D. 235-238 / Decius - A.D. 249-251 / Valerian - A.D. 253-260

Aurelian - A.D. 270-275 / Diocletian - A.D. 284-305

Diocletian was considered the worst emperor in Rome's history and the greatest opponent of the Christian faith.

Diocletian led a violent attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ The Bible from the face of the earth. Under his leadership many Roman cities had public burnings of The Scriptures.

During the second and third centuries, hundreds of Christians were brought into the amphitheater of Rome to be fed to lions while spectators cheered. Many were crucified; others were covered in animal skins and tortured to death by wild dogs. Many were covered in tar and set fire to serve as torches. Many were boiled in oil and burned at the stake. It has been estimated that five \_\_\_\_\_ Christians were martyred for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ - If the church will remain faithful, no matter the suffering or sacrifice, Christ will give them the \_\_\_\_\_ of the "crown" of eternal life.

Christ does not let "suffering saints" on this side of Glory go unnoticed or unrewarded.

Look at Revelation 2:11

"He who is born once will die twice; he who is born twice will die once." D.L. Moody

The "second death" is the death which no believer will experience.

The "first death" concerns the body. The "second death" concerns the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; it is eternal separation from God. \_\_\_\_\_ believer will have to face this!