

“Christ Evaluates the Churches”
The Revelation of Jesus Christ — Part 5
Revelation 2:12-29

Review: As we look at seven churches in Asia Minor being evaluated by Christ, keep in mind that we are seeing what is most important to Jesus when it comes to church. We need to learn from them so we can follow Christ and honor Him.

Ephesus—the church that lost its first love!
(They were hardworking, faithful and sacrificing,
yet forgot what was most important.)

Smyrna—the persecuted and pure church!
(They were physically poor, yet spiritually rich.)

The Church at Pergamum—(Compromised)

“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.”
Revelation 2:12

1. Approval—Complimented by Christ!

“I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city— where Satan lives.”

Revelation 2:13

2. Accusation—Now for the bad news!

“Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.”

Revelation 2:14-15

Question: *Who are Balaam and Balak?*

3. Admonition—Corrective steps or punishment!

“Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.”
Revelation 2:16

Question: What does it mean to fight with the sword of His mouth?

4. Are you listening?

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.”

Question: What is the hidden manna and the white stone?

The Church at Thyatira—(Corrupted)

“To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.”

Revelation 2:18

1. Approval—Complimented by Christ!

“I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.” Revelation 2:19

2. Accusation—Now for the bad news!

“Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.”

Revelation 2:20

Question: Who was the woman, Jezebel?

3. Admonition—Corrective steps or punishment!

“I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): Only hold on to what you have until I come.”

Revelation 2:21-25

4. Are you listening?

“To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 2:26-29

Question: *What does it mean to have authority over the nations, and what is the morning star?*

Lifework: What did you learn from the churches of Revelation thus far?

To Ephesus: *Don't let your love for Jesus grow cold!*

To Smyrna: *Don't fear the persecution of the world!*

To Pergamum: *Trust the Word of God to keep you strong and faithful!*

To Thyatira: *Avoid sexual and spiritual adultery. Be pure!*

How can you heed these admonitions? What does it mean you need to do differently this week?

* _____

* _____

* _____

* _____