

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Revelation 2:1-7: Ephesus: From Devotion to Duty

Introduction

Seven were chosen because they represent conditions throughout church history.

The structure of the letters looks like this:

1. The City is Distinguished
2. The Christ is Described
3. The Commendation is Delivered
4. The Condemnation is Disclosed
5. The Counsel is Directed
6. The Challenge is Declared

Background on Ephesus

The city:

Location: ____ miles from Patmos

Ephesus was primarily known for the Temple of _____

The church:

Started by _____ in Acts 19

1 Timothy & 2 Timothy were addressed to Timothy in _____

Revelation 2:1-7

The City is Distinguished (1a)

The Christ is Described (1b)

The Commendation is Delivered (2-3)

The Condemnation is Disclosed (4)

1. Do my mind and mouth switch to auto-pilot during the _____ service?
2. Do I remember my last answered _____?
3. Do I feel guilty when I hear someone talk about what they got from their private devotional time?
4. Do I read my _____ because I'm supposed to, and not because I want to? Or do I not read like I used to?
5. Do I find myself critiquing and criticizing the _____, rather than growing from it?
6. Do I wish everyone would just leave me alone, during handshake time?
7. Do those smiling and happy Christians get on my _____?
8. Do I find myself continually looking for ways of becoming _____ committed, rather than more committed?
9. Do I find myself going backward in my Christian walk?
10. Do I find a reason to _____ before the invitation?

The Counsel is Directed (5-6)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The Challenge is Declared (7)

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Revelation 2:8-11: Smyrna: Suffering Smyrna

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Background on Smyrna

The city:

“Smyrna” means “_____”

35-40 miles north of Ephesus

Shape of the older buildings resembles a _____

Created _____ worship

The church:

Not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture

_____ was an early pastor

Revelation 2:8-11

The City is Distinguished (8a)

The Christ is Described (8b)

The Commendation is Delivered (9)

1. The _____ Church
2. The _____ Church

The Condemnation is Disclosed (N/A)

The Counsel is Directed (10)

3. The _____ Church

The Challenge is Declared (11)

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Revelation 2:12-17: Pergamos: The Compromising Church

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Background on Pergamos

The city:

“Pergamos” means “_____”

Located on a promontory

Upper Acropolis

The _____

The library

Asclepieion

Sanctuary to Asclepius--the god of _____

The church:

Not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture (not Perga)

Revelation 2:12-17

The City is Distinguished (12a)

The Christ is Described (12b)

The Commendation is Delivered (13)

The Condemnation is Disclosed (14-15)

1. The _____

The Counsel is Directed (16)

2. The _____

The Challenge is Declared (17)

3. The _____

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Revelation 2:18-29: Thyatira: Tolerating Thyatira

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Background on Thyatira

The city:

Thyatira means “_____”

Famous for _____

Primary god was _____ (called Tyrimnus)

_____ (in Acts 16) was a native of Thyatira

The church:

Not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture

Revelation 2:18-29

The City is Distinguished (18a)

The Christ is Described (18b)

The Commendation is Delivered (19)

The Condemnation is Disclosed (20-23)

The Counsel is Directed (24-28)

The Challenge is Declared (29)

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Revelation 3:1-6: Sardis: Secure Sardis

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6. The Challenge is Declared

Background on Sardis

The city:

Sardis means “_____”

Sardis was geographically secure

“As _____ as Croesus”

Worshipped the mother-goddess Cybele

Remains include the bath-gymnasium and the shops

The church:

Not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture

Revelation 3:1-6

The City is Distinguished (1a)

The Christ is Described (1b)

The Condemnation is Disclosed (1c)

This church had _____ for members

The Counsel is Directed (2-3)

Sardis was not a _____ to Satan

The Commendation is Delivered (4-5)

The Challenge is Declared (6)

Jesus is an _____ at raising the dead

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Revelation 3:7-13: Philadelphia: Friendly Philly

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Background on Philadelphia

The city:

Philadelphia means “_____”

Philadelphia was originally founded as a _____
outpost for Hellenism

Philadelphia was destroyed by an _____ in 17 AD

Philadelphia changed its _____ to Neocaesarea

Philadelphia honored its illustrious sons by putting their names on the
_____ of its temples

The church:

Not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture

Revelation 3:7-13

The City is Distinguished (7a)

The Christ is Described (7b)

The Commendation is Delivered (8-10)

1. I know your _____
2. open _____
 - a. little _____
 - b. kept My _____
 - c. not denied My _____

The Condemnation is Disclosed (N/A)

The Counsel is Directed (11)

The Challenge is Declared (12-13)

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Revelation 3:14-22: Lackadaisical Laodicea

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Background on Laodicea

The city:

Laodicea means “_____ of the people”

Known for _____, _____, and _____

Poor _____ supply

The church:

Mentioned five times in Colossians (Colossians __: __)

Revelation 3:14-22

The City is Distinguished (14a)

The Christ is Described (14b)

The Commendation is Delivered (N/A)

The Condemnation is Disclosed (15-17)

I know your _____

_____ or _____

The Counsel is Directed (18-20)

The Challenge is Declared (21-22)