



The Churches and Their Condition (part 1)

By Ken Terry on October 25, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Revelation 2

In chapter one the angel speaks of the seven lampstands that signify the seven churches. The passage also speaks of seven stars. The stars are the messengers that represent the churches. In chapter two Jesus gives His synopsis of the conditions of four of the churches.

The Loveless Church – Church in Ephesus – Revelation 2:3-5, *“and you have persevered and have patience and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless, I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 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.”*

The Persecuted Church – Church in 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. 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.”*

The Compromising Church – Church in Pergamum – Revelation 2:13,15-16, *“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. Thus, you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.”*

The Corrupt Church – Church in Thyatira – Revelation 2:20-23, *“Nevertheless, I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent... I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.”*

My friends, looking at these churches and the condition they are in, which church do you identify with? If you say the persecuted church, are you willing to suffer to the point of death as Jesus is encouraging? It is a maturity thing! We see the issues cited in these four churches all over this nation: lovelessness, compromise and corruption. The only place where persecution occurs today is overseas. What is the believer to do?

Revelation 2:29, *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

More to come on the next three churches that Jesus speaks to tomorrow.

PRAYER: Father in the heavens, please stir in us and keep us watchful for things to come. Let us not be caught slumbering or derelict in our responsibilities as we await the return of Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, come! We ask these things in His holy and matchless name, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Revelation 3

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