

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Revelation 2-3

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Revelation 2-3 in one sitting.

For this lesson, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the 7 letters to the 7 churches in Revelation 2-3.

Letters to the 7 churches:

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ephesus | Revelation 2:1-7 |
| 2. Smyrna | Revelation 2:8-11 |
| 3. Pergamum | Revelation 2:12-17 |
| 4. Thyatira | Revelation 2:18-29 |
| 5. Sardis | Revelation 3:1-6 |
| 6. Philadelphia | Revelation 3:7-13 |
| 7. Laodicea | Revelation 3:14-22 |

Use the above for a quick reference if you need it while answering the questions below.

1. Review each of the 7 churches in Revelation 2-3 and look for common structure references within each letter (repeated phrases or patterns).

Note: Not every letter contains every structure reference.

Here are a couple of hints to start -> "I know" and "He who has an ear".

2. Read through the letters to the 1st and the 7th churches and compare them. Look for similar problems between the two churches and list them below. Use the structure references you found in question 1 to help identify the similarities.

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3. How does Jesus state he will deal with the sinful issues in these two churches (Ephesus and Laodicea)?

4. Read and compare the letters to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th churches. Do you find any similarities in what Jesus has against them? Write out below any common problems you may find.

5. How will Jesus deal with the sinful issues in these three churches (Pergamum, Thyatira, and Sardis)?

❖ Day 2

Read Revelation 2-3 again.

6. Read through and compare the letters to the 2nd and the 6th churches. Look for similarities between the two churches and list them below. (Hint: Based on question 1 and the structure references you identified, look for structures that are common and ones that are missing as compared to the other churches.)

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10. Summarize anything that Jesus commends or praises for each church in 10 words or less.

11. Is there a commendation found for each church? What would that highlight about a church if it does not have anything praiseworthy found by Christ?

12. What relevance does Jesus knowledge of the seven churches found in Revelation 2-3 have on any churches for today? List some implications of what this might mean and how it would affect churches (leaders, members, ministry, etc.)

❖ Day 3

Read Revelation 2-3 again.

13. "Who Overcomes" is another section for the letters. In which letters is this section found? What significance is there in that?

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14. Summarize each promise to those “who overcome” in 15 words or less. When are these promises to be fulfilled?

15. Notice that each church has an instruction to do. List the commands of these instructions and how they relate to their respective churches. (For example: Ephesus – left first love → commanded to “remember”, “repent”, “do the deeds”, calling back to their first love and responses to that love).

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16. How do the instructions from Christ in the previous question help address any issues or suffering in each church? Answer this briefly for each church.

17. List every reference of where Jesus addresses the angel for each church.

18. Based on the references in question 5, how does Jesus address the angel of each church? What significance does this have since he holds the stars in His right hand (Revelation 1:16, 20)?

In preparation for Sunday, pray for understanding from this larger context to help gain clarity and perspective for all the letters addressed to the churches, to be open to instruction, to study the Scriptures to see truth, and to live in light of the warnings and promises found in these letters in our churches today.