

Revelation Churches

4-15-18

Revelation 2:7 (ESV)

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

After identifying HIMSELF in C.1, Jesus gives a message to 7 churches, which is in fact a message to all churches throughout all ages. **Jesus is speaking to us.** We saw in C.1, we saw very distinct attributes identified through Jesus' appearance. Now as Jesus addresses 7 churches in C.2 and 3, HE identifies each of these attributes with each church. **This gives us evidence that these 7 churches are representative of Jesus and all churches throughout the ages.** Jesus also gives each church a **divine promise** for their obedience associated with the **distinct attribute** about Himself. **Thus Jesus is identifying HIS intended complete work through HIS churches though out the ages.** Since Jesus wants all churches throughout all ages to learn and be blessed by the visions, HE closes each statement for each church with, **"Let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."** **This means that each message spoken to each church is to be heard by the other 6 churches and furthermore each message is to be heard throughout all the ages by all churches.**

Jesus used a consistent approach to address each of the 7 churches. We will look at the entire text for the church of Ephesus to understand the application of this approach.

Revelation 2:1 (ESV)

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The words of him who holds the seven stars (angels) in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands (churches).

The Attribute of Jesus is Identified!

Next, to each church Jesus declares that HE knows their works!

Revelation 2:2-3 (ESV)

I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, bearing up for my name's sake, **and you have not grown weary.**

Next, to each church Christ points out praise, error, and consequences

Revelation 2:4

But I have this against you, “You have lost your first love!”

Jesus says Ephesus has stood for truth and not grown weary. However, Jesus rebukes them because they have lost their first love, that love relationship with Jesus! They are technically correct but without love.

Next, to each church Jesus declares that “All” the churches are to listen!

Revelation 2:7a (ESV)

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

Next, to each church an Attribute of Jesus is identified as a reward for obedience.

Revelation 2:7b (ESV)

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

In Gen.2:9 Adam and Eve were prohibited from eating of the tree of life. Now by keeping a love relationship with Jesus, we will be able to eat of the tree of life meaning we will have eternal life with Jesus. The remaining 6 churches are all addressed in the same manner. However for the sake of time, for the remaining 6 churches we will just summarize the lessons and warnings expressed.

Revelation 2:8-11 (ESV)

Smyrna I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich). Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.

The true church is persecuted around the world. Jesus encourages them to be faithful even unto death and HE will give them the crown of eternal life. They will not suffer at the final judgment.

Revelation 2:12–17 (ESV)

Pergamum I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name.

But I have a few things against you: you have some there who ... eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. ¹⁶ Therefore repent. **If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.**

Satan takes up residence in various places on earth. Within this city of deep darkness, these believers hold fast to the Name of Jesus. Yet Jesus says that some of the people practice idolatry and sexual immorality. **Thus Jesus will come and deal with this false teaching with the sword of HIS mouth.**

Revelation 2:18–29 (ESV)

Thyatira I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

²⁰ **But** I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman **Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality ... ²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, ... **hold fast what you have until I come and I will reward you.**

This church is doing well and full of people loving the Lord and serving HIM. **However they are tolerating immoral spiritual leadership.**

Jesus declares, “Separate yourself from **Jezebel and hold fast to the good you have until I come.”**

Revelation 3:1–6 (ESV)

Sardis I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die. ⁴ Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, for they are worthy.

To “All” the churches: Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die!

Revelation 3:7–13 (ESV)

Philadelphia, I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ¹⁰ Because you have kept my word, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

Statements we should take to heart looking for Jesus’ imminent return: 1) I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. 2) I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

Revelation 3:14–22 (ESV)

Laodicea, I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot!

This church seems to be the most disgusting: The Lukewarm church! Jesus declares, “Be hot or cold!” Make a decision! Lukewarm is nauseating and makes Jesus want to vomit!

Revelation 3:14–22 (ESV)

So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit (vomit) you out of my mouth.

However for all people for all times, Jesus is knocking on the door of their hearts desiring all let HIM in to receive HIM.

Revelation 3:20 (ESV)

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

With this plea to open the door of our hearts to Jesus is a beautiful picture of heaven and our eternal life with Jesus.

Revelation 3:21 (ESV)

The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Jesus says, “I stand at the door and knock!” Then Jesus makes the ageless plea:

Revelation 3:22 (ESV)

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

Therefore, hearing what the Spirit says to the churches, the churches through all ages say, “Come!”

Revelation 22:17 (ESV)

The Spirit and the Bride **say, “Come.”** And let the one who hears **say, “Come.”**

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future