*February 6, 2022*

**The Church Age**

**Revelation – Part 2**

**Revelation 2-3**

**"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.” Revelation 1:19**

**Jesus is Lord over His Church and**

**Jesus is Lord over History**

**Three ways to look at the seven Churches**

**1. These letters were given to seven particular churches that existed in John’s day.**

**Ephesus**

**“…you have left your first love.” Revelation 2:4**

**“…and remove their lampstand.” Revelation 2:5.**

**Smyrna**

**“…Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10**

**Pergamum**

**“…in the city where Satan has his throne.” Revelation 2:13**

**“But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.” Revelation 2:14-15**

**Thyatira**

**“But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality. Revelation 2:20-21**

**Sardis**

**“…I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead.” Revelation 3:1**

**“There are some in the church in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes with evil…” Revelation 3:4.**

**Philadelphia**

**“I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me.** **Revelation 3:8**

**Laodicea**

**“I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! Revelation 3:15-16**

**“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.” Revelation 3:20**

**2. These letters were given as a message to all churches throughout the church age.**

**“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches… Revelation 2:7**

**Every church and every Christian must**

**guard against leaving our first love.**

**“Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first…” Revelation 2:5**

**Every church and every Christian must**

**be ready for suffering and persecution.**

**Every church and every Christian must**

**maintain doctrinal and moral purity.**

**“Don’t you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough?”**

**1 Corinthians 5:6**

**Every church and every Christian must**

**understand when we tolerate evil, we will**

**eventually join with and be controlled by evil.**

**Every church and every Christian must regularly evaluate their spiritual health to see**

**if they’re really alive.**

**“Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.” Revelation 3:2-3**

**Every church and every Christian must**

**take seriously the Great Commission.**

**“See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut…” Revelation 3:8**

**The No. 1 priority of the Church during**

**the Church Age is to share the Gospel!**

**Every church and every Christian must guard against drifting toward becoming lukewarm.**

**3. These letters were given to reveal seven periods of Church history from the birth of the Church to the rapture.**

**“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches…” Revelation 2:7**

**Ephesus represents the apostolic age of the church**

**Smyrna represents the age of great**

**persecution in the church**

**Pergamum represents the beginning of**

**Compromise in the Church**

**Thyatira represents the dark ages of the church**

**Sardis represents the Church of the Reformation**

**Philadelphia represents the missional,**

**revival Church**

**“…I will keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.” Revelation 3:10**

**Laodicea represents the church of the last days**

**“Life was filled with guns and wars and everyone got trampled on the floor. I wish we’d all be ready. Two men standing on a hill, one disappears and one left standing still. I wish we’d all been ready.”**