

Theme: In Revelation 2 and 3 the risen, exalted Jesus sends His message through John to seven churches, encouraging them in righteousness and calling them to repent of sin, and through them He speaks to us today as well.

I. Ephesus - The Loveless Church

- A. Theme: The church must test all teaching and reject false teachers, but it must also remain fervent in love for God and people.
- B. Text: Revelation 2:1-7
- C. Response: Prayer
- D. Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
- E. Teaching keywords: sovereignty of God; false teaching and heresy; love; encouragement; Deity of Christ; endurance; confession and repentance

II. Smyrna - The Persecuted Church

- A. Theme: The church must be faithful, even when persecuted and killed, knowing that God is Sovereign and eternal life awaits His people.
- B. Text: Revelation 2:8-11
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Revelation 1:4-6
- E. Teaching keywords: persecuted church; suffering; sovereignty of God; encouragement; Deity of Christ; Satan and demons; perseverance; faithfulness

III. Pergamum - The Compromising Church

- A. Theme: The church must not be fooled by Satan or his servants into compromising with idolatry or sexual sin, and must call all members to repentance for such sins.
- B. Text: Revelation 2:12-17
- C. Response: Prayer
- D. Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
- E. Teaching keywords: false teaching and heresy; Satan and demons; persecuted church; sexual sin; confession and repentance

IV. Thyatira - The 'Tolerant' Church

- A. Theme: The church must not embrace a false 'tolerance' for those who compromise essentials which leads to an idolatry and immorality within the church.
- B. Text: Revelation 2:18-29
- C. Response: Prayer
- D. Benediction: Jude 24-25
- E. Teaching keywords: false teaching and heresy; idolatry and false gods; sexual sin; confession and repentance

V. Sardis - The Dead Church

- A. Theme: The church must be alive and alert, not living off past faith and deeds, but nurturing a vital, continuing walk with Jesus and opposition to Satan.
- B. Text: Revelation 3:1-6
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Hebrews 13:20-21
- E. Teaching keywords: correction; endurance; passion for Christ; spiritual warfare; sanctification

VI. Philadelphia - The Faithful Church

- A. Theme: Jesus sees the patient perseverance of the Church through the midst of trials and He will reward her soon.
- B. Text: Revelation 3:7-13
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Revelation 3:11-12
- E. Teaching keywords: Christology; faithfulness; endurance; eschatology; testing and trial; suffering; obedience

VIII. Laodicea - The Lukewarm Church

- A. Theme: The church must not try to be independent and sufficient in its own resources, but find its sufficiency for life and ministry only in Christ.
- B. Text: Revelation 3:14-22
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Revelation 1:4-5
- E. Teaching keywords: humility and pride; confession and repentance; grace; Lord's Supper

Seven: The Churches of Revelation - Series Outline Lent 2017