

Overview:

- Read the Scriptures printed in this study guide.
- What keywords do you first notice? Highlight or circle them.
- What phrases catch your attention? Underline them.
- Jesus takes His Responsibility as the Head of the Church very seriously.

Explore:

- Read Revelation 1:11-16, 20, Discuss Jesus' care for His Church, His Awareness, and His Attention.
- Discuss the church at Ephesus, how do we lose our Love as Christians? What can we do about it?
- Discuss the church at Smyrna. What do you think about them? Does Jesus' commendation of them comfort or concern you?
- How do you feel about Christians suffering for Christ? How does Faith address the suffering?
- Discuss the church at Pergamum. How might we be susceptible to the "teaching of Balaam"?
- Do Jesus' promises to the Christians at Pergamum encourage you? Why?
- Discuss the Church at Thyatira. Do we allow people in our lives to draw us away from Christ? How might we protect ourselves from such a temptation?
- Which of these Churches' warnings do you find the most personal, the most applicable to yourself?
- What do you think about Jesus as He is presented to the churches in Revelation 1-3?

Revelations 2:1-13 NLT "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands:

2 "I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. 3 You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. 4 "But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first! 5 Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches. 6 But this is in your favor: You hate the evil deeds of the Nicolaitans, just as I do. 7 "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God. 8 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Smyrna. This is the message from the one who is the First and the Last, who was dead but is now alive:

9 "I know about your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich! I know the blasphemy of those opposing you. They say they are Jews, but they are not, because their synagogue belongs to Satan. 10 Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life. 11 "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. Whoever is victorious will not be harmed by the second death.

12 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Pergamum. This is the message from the one with the sharp two-edged sword:

13 "I know that you live in the city where Satan has his throne, yet you have remained loyal to me. You refused to deny me even when Antipas, my faithful witness, was martyred among you there in Satan's city.

14 “But I have a few complaints against you. You tolerate some among you whose teaching is like that of Balaam, who showed Balak how to trip up the people of Israel. He taught them to sin by eating food offered to idols and by committing sexual sin. 15 In a similar way, you have some Nicolaitans among you who follow the same teaching. 16 Repent of your sin, or I will come to you suddenly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 17 “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.

18 “Write this letter to the angel of the church in Thyatira. This is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are like flames of fire, whose feet are like polished bronze: 19 “I know all the things you do. I have seen your love, your faith, your service, and your patient endurance. And I can see your constant improvement in all these things. 20 “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. 21 I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality.

22 “Therefore, I will throw her on a bed of suffering, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer greatly unless they repent and turn away from her evil deeds. 23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve.

24 “But I also have a message for the rest of you in Thyatira who have not followed this false teaching (‘deeper truths,’ as they call them—depths of Satan, actually). I will ask nothing more of you 25 except that you hold tightly to what you have until I come. 26 To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, To them I will give authority over all the nations. 27 They will rule the nations with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots. 28 They will have the same authority I received from my Father, and I will also give them the morning star!

29 “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.

The END... Church Stuff Part 1

Jesus among the Lampstands

Revelation 1:11-16, 20

Why Seven Churches?

The Formula

Know Love - Ephesus (The Mean Church)

About Ephesus

1 Corinthians 16:8-9, 1 Corinthians 15:32

The Good Stuff

Revelation 2:1-3

The Bad Stuff

Revelation 2:4-7

No Light - A Warning

Know Poverty - Smyrna (The Broke Church)

About Smyrna

A Message of Poverty

Revelation 2:8-11, Matthew 6:21, James 1:9-10

No Fear - A Message of Endurance

Matthew 10:22

Know Purity - Pergamum (The Wrong Church)

About Pergamum

Revelation 2:12-17

The Teaching of Balaam. (Num 22-24)

No Distraction

Know When to Draw the Line - Thyatira (The Immoral Church)

About Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29

Jezebel (1 Kings)

The God of the Old Testament and Jesus.

No Compromise