

COMMENTARY

Revelation Chapter 2:

vs. 1-7

John begins the messages to each of the 7 churches that he was told to write to. A messenger from Patmos would come to these cities in the order that John writes to them.

John writes as our Lord tells him to write. Jesus begins each letter to each church with an excerpt of the description of what John had seen. This would quickly identify to the readers that it was Jesus who was talking yet someone else (a govt. official) would not understand it. Jesus states that Ephesus had remained faithful in action and deed, BUT they no longer had the same love for their Lord as they did when they began. They were going through all the right motions, you might say. Jesus tells them to straighten up or else the lampstand (representing their lights as Christians and thus their salvation) would be taken from them. The Nicolaitans were a group of "believers" who still maintained the practice of sin in their lives and made no effort to accept that such evil was wrong. Jesus warns them at Ephesus to hear His message and change their ways so that they might have a part of eternal life.

vs. 8-11

Jesus tells the church at Smyrna that even though they don't have much in physical riches that they are rich spiritually. He tells them to continue to remain faithful even though they are about to go through persecution for a time. In so doing they will find themselves rewarded for their faithfulness.

vs. 12-17

Jesus tells those of Pergamum that they live in an area where society is evil. Jesus tells them that they have been true to their faith by not renouncing Him, yet they do have some who are committing evil and encouraging others to do so also. He warns them to change their ways before He has to come and resolve the matter. He who does repent, Jesus says, will have eternal life.

vs. 18-29

Jesus tells the church at Thyatira that He has seen how they have grown. Yet they also have among their number those who commit sin and feel no shame or remorse. He says that He will punish such individuals. He encourages those who have been faithful even in this area to remain true to Him and they also shall reign with Him forever.

COMMENTARY

Revelation Chapter 3:

vs. 1- 6

John continues recording the messages to the various churches. This chapter begins with the letter to Sardis. The church at Sardis has a reputation Jesus says, of being faithful followers of Him. He clearly states that this is not the case and that they had better change before He returns and they find that they have lost out. He states that there are some who are still faithfully serving Him and that they will be rewarded along with any who will repent and change their ways.

vs. 7-13

The church at Philadelphia, Jesus states, is in a weakened condition but that has not caused them to waver in their faithfulness and dedication. Jesus says that their adversaries will admit that Jesus has been true to them and loved them (the church). Jesus promises to protect this congregation from the trial which others would face. He states that if they remain faithful they will have a place in the kingdom.

vs. 14-22

Jesus states that the congregation in Laodicea is neither hot or cold. They have become complacent and are not concerned with their spiritual lives although they continue to go through the motions. They have become dependent on the things that the world offers yet Jesus tells them that in reality they have nothing if they are not trusting and serving Him. He asks the Christians there to let Him back into their hearts and if they will they will have a place in the kingdom.

STUDY GUIDE

Revelation Chapter 2:

1. What is Ephesus commended for?
2. What is Ephesus rebuked for?
3. What promise does Jesus give to those at Ephesus?
4. What is Smyrna commended for?
5. Is Smyrna rebuked for anything?
6. What does Jesus promise those at Smyrna?
7. What is Pergamum commended for?
8. What is Pergamum rebuked for?
9. What is promised to those at Pergamum?
10. What is Thyatira commended for?
11. What is Thyatira rebuked for?
12. What is promised those at Thyatira?

BONUS:

1. Can Christians today be commended as these churches were?
2. Can Christians today be rebuked for the same reasons as these 4?
3. What do Jesus' promises mean to you?

STUDY GUIDE

Revelation Chapter 3:

1. Is the church at Sardis commended?
2. What is the church at Sardis rebuked for?
3. What does Jesus promise those at Sardis?
4. What is the church at Philadelphia commended for?
5. What is the church at Philadelphia rebuked for?
6. What does Jesus promise the church at Philadelphia?
7. Is the church at Laodicea commended?
8. What is the church at Laodicea rebuked for?
9. What are those at Laodicea promised?

BONUS:

1. How do Christians make the same mistakes today that these churches were making?
2. How are Christians following the good points of these churches?
3. How does the promises in this chapter affect your view of eternal life?