

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A study through the book of Revelation

Session #3

Rev. 2:8 - 17

I. An Overview of the Seven Churches

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision

I. An Overview of the Seven Churches

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2 —

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision

Modern Day Turkey



Biblical Turkey



Paul's Four Missionary Journeys



II. An Overview to the Letters

An introduction to the letters to the churches

Each one has a similar structure:

An address to a particular congregation

An introduction of Jesus

A statement regarding the condition of the church

A verdict from Jesus regarding the condition of the church

A command from Jesus to the church

A general exhortation to all Christians

A promise of reward

An introduction to the Church at Smyrna

III. To the Church at Smyrna (2:8-11)

Verse 8

An address to a particular congregation

To the Angel

Angel = aggelos = ago (bring) + agele (what is heard) - messenger

Pastor – Overseer – angel assigned to this particular church?
of the Church in Smyrna write

An introduction of Jesus

The words of him

who is the First and the Last (Rev. 1:17)

who died and came to life again (Rev. 1:18)

Clearly – Jesus Christ is speaking here

Verse 9

A statement regarding the condition of the church

I know your afflictions

afflictions = phlipsis = to be pressed together, persecution

your poverty

poverty = ptocheia = one who is destitute (begging)

A verdict from Jesus regarding the condition of the church

YET you are rich!

rich = plousios = abundantly supplied, wealthy

From an outward perspective Smyrna was very poor

From Jesus' perspective – Smyrna was very wealthy!

“sweet smelling Smyrna, the poorest but the purest of the seven”

Polycarp – Bishop of Smyrna

Rich in Faith and Character



“Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong”

Verse 9

A statement regarding the condition of the church

I know the slander

of those who say they are Jews but are not

The synagogue of Satan

Satan = adversary – one who opposes and oppresses

John 8:44 - You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Verse 10

A command from Jesus to the church

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer

literally – “stop being afraid”

I tell you

the devil will put some in prison
to test you

devil = diabolos = slanderer

test = to purify, to witness, to purge

You (all) will suffer persecution
for ten days

ten days? – short time, 10 emperors, 10 years?

Verse 10

Be faithful (pistis = faithful in all things)

even to the point of death

I will give you

the crown (stephanos = victors crown) of life (zoe)

Verse 11

A general exhortation to all Christians

He who has an ear

let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

A promise of reward

He who overcomes (nike)

will not be hurt at all by the second death

Second death = the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8, 20:6, 14-15)

Review of the Church at Smyrna

- The only one of the seven with no negative charges
- The only one of the seven that still exists today.
- The name of Smyrna today is Izmir, Turkey
- Good
 - Richness in poverty
 - Faithfulness against slander
- Reward
 - Victors crown and NO second death



IV. To the Church at Pergamum (2:12 - 17)

Verse 12

An address to a particular congregation

To the Angel

of the Church in Pergamum (elevation) write

An introduction of Jesus

The words of him

who has the sharp double-edged sword (Rev. 1:16)

Heb. 4:12 – The word of God is alive and powerful...

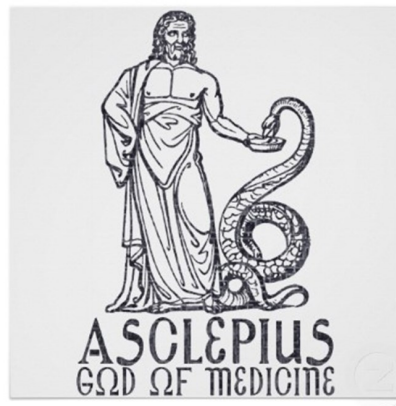
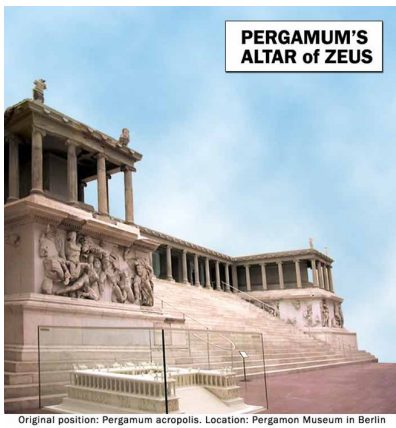
Verse 13

A statement regarding the condition of the church

I know (your works [ergon]) and where you live (oikos)

where Satan (Asclepios, Zeus, Caesar) has his throne

Synagogue in 2:9 – throne here



Verse 13

YET you remain true (hold fast – krateo)
to my name

You did not renounce [a (not) + rew (speak)]
your faith in me

Even in the days of Anitpas,

My faithful witness (martus),

Who was put to death in your city

Pergamum has their own Polycarp named Antipas

The more who martyr themselves the more persecution comes

Where Satan lives.

synagogue – throne – personal residence!

Verse 14

A verdict from Jesus regarding the condition of the church

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you:

You have people who hold to the teaching of Balaam
entice Israel to sin

eating food offered to idols

committing sexual immorality

Balaam = all false teachers (Num. 22, 23, 24, 31)

Balaam desires to please Balak, King of Moab, to curse Israel

Verse 15

Likewise

You have those who hold to the Nicolatians teachings

Verse 16

A command from Jesus to the church

Repent

Otherwise I will soon come to you

will fight against them with the my sword

The proconsul of Rome held a sword of judgement

Verse 17

A general exhortation to all Christians

He who has an ear,

let him hear what Spirit says to the churches.

A promise of reward

To him who overcomes (nike)

I will give him some of the hidden manna

Verse 17

I will also give him a white stone

with a new name written on it

known only to the one who receives it

Roman custom of giving the winner of the event a white stone with their name engraved in order for them to enter the victory celebration.

known = gnosko = to know in your heart (that you've earned it)

Review of the Church at Pergamum

• Good

- **I know your works**
- **I know that you live in the middle of Satan's place**
- **You have stayed faithful to my name**

• Bad

- **You are NOT guarding the people against falsehood!**
 - **Balaam**
 - **Nocolatians**

• Rewards

- **Hidden manna**
- **White stone**