

## BACK TO THE FUTURE: REVELATION IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S PROPHECY

### *“The Church in the Midst of Trial – Christ’s Legal Summons”*

Revelation 2–3; Matthew 24:9–14

*“They will deliver you up to tribulation... you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake... many will fall away... but the one who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matthew 24:9-14)*

#### ❖ Christ’s Summons to the Seven Churches

- **Ephesus – Orthodoxy Without Love (2:1–7)**

But here is the charge: “You have abandoned the love you had at first.”

The warning is clear: repent, or I will remove your lamp stand.

We must ask ourselves: Do we love Jesus more today than when we first believed?

- **Smyrna – Poor but Rich (2:8–11)**

Yet the summons is firm: *“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”*

This is Matthew 24:13 in flesh and blood: *“The one who endures to the end will be saved.”*

- **Pergamum – Compromising with the World (2:12–17)**

The summons is urgent: repent, or Christ Himself will fight them with the sword of His mouth.

Church, we must beware of the slow creep of compromise.

We must remember: we cannot dine at two tables.

- **Thyatira – Tolerating Jezebel (2:18–29)**

Thyatira had much to commend: love, faith, service, endurance. But they tolerated Jezebel—a false prophetess leading Christ’s servants into sin.

Church, hear this: tolerance is not the highest virtue in the Kingdom of God. The world preaches tolerance, but Christ demands holiness.

Yet notice His mercy: He gives time to repent.

- **Sardis – Reputation Without Reality (3:1–6)**

His verdict is chilling: “You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.”

The summons: wake up, strengthen what remains, remember, repent.

- **Philadelphia – Weak but Faithful (3:7–13)**

Philadelphia had little strength, yet they kept Christ's Word and did not deny His name.

Church, weakness is no barrier to Christ. In fact, it is often His chosen stage for glory.

Let us not despise smallness or weakness.

- **Laodicea – Lukewarm and Blind (3:14–22)**

His charge is blunt: "You are neither hot nor cold... because you are lukewarm, I will spit you out."

This is the most dangerous state: not hot with zeal, not cold in rejection, but lukewarm with complacency.

## ❖ **Theological Reflection**

These summonses remind us:

- Christ sees all things. Nothing is hidden.
- Christ calls us to endure tribulation with fidelity.
- Christ disciplines those He loves, not to destroy but to restore.

- Christ rewards the conquerors with eternal glory.