

You Have Left Your First Love

Rev 2: 1-7

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- As we go into our study of the churches mentioned in Rev 2 and 3, we will see 7 churches listed.
- Bible scholars believe and teach that these 7 represent 7 timeframes in the church age.
 - Ephesus.....33-100 AD
 - Smyrna.....100-313 AD
 - Pergamum...313-538 AD
 - These three periods are considered to exist during the Roman Empire when persecution was rampant from various Emperors

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- The next two churches mentioned are
 - Thyatira.....538-1517
 - Sardis.....1517-1798
 - This church “age” was controlled by the Roman Catholic Church
 - On October 31, 1517, Luther nailed his theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg Germany
 - In the mid-1700’s, John and Charles Wesley came on the scene with George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards....called the Great Awakening
 - This lead to the time of a large missionary movement

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- Then we have two letters left
 - Philadelphia.....1798-1866
 - In the mid to late-1700's, John and Charles Wesley came on the scene with George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards....called the Great Awakening
 - It was the time of a large missionary movement
 - CT Studd, Adonirum Judson, Hudson Taylor
 - Laodicea.....1866-present
 - Many churches today are nothing more than a show
 - Doctrinal issues are drowned in ecumenism

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- Some may ask why people adhere to this idea of a church age?
 - Rev 1: 19.....
 - The book of the Revelation is not only about the future
 - But is also about things “which are”
- Consequently, contained in the letters to the seven churches is a message for today
- There are some things we should note
 - Each letter starts out the same
 - “To the angel of the church of”

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- This denotes a personal touch with each church
- We must note that the person who is dictating the letter is Christ Himself.
 - Rev 1: 19....."therefore write"
- We must also note that the speaker (Christ) has an intimate knowledge of what is going on in each church.
 - Each church is responsible for what is going on inside the doors

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- We must note each church is given an ultimatum
 - “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”
- And each letter contains a promise
 - “To him who overcomes”
 - “I will grant or give or make”
- Finally, since each letter is personal from our Lord, we should read it as such which give these letters a greater impact

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- Rev 2: 1-7.....
 - "The One who holds the 7 stars and walks among the 7 golden lampstands"
 - We know from Rev 1: 20
 - Stars are the angels of these churches
 - The lampstands the churches themselves
- Some have interpreted the angels to the "pastors" of these churches
 - This is an incorrect assumption
 - Since the word "aggelos" is used 188 times in the N.T
 - It is used 76 times in Revelation always referring to angelic beings.....not men.

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- What this tells is that each church has a specific angel assigned to that church
 - Hebrews 1: 14; Heb 12: 22; Matt 18: 10; Dan 10: 10-13
- The 7 great lampstands are the churches
 - The lampstands denotes that these are “light-bearing” churches
 - KJV.... Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life (John 8: 12)

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- This passage in John give us insight to the Revelation message (Rev 2: 1-7)
 - Vs 2.....I know your deeds, toil and perseverance
 - You will not abide those who call themselves apostles (which are evil men)
 - Vs 3....you have endured for My name's sake
- Vs 4...."but this I have against you...."
 - "You have left your first love"
 - Note.....not "lost" but "left"
 - Eph 6: 24.....KJV.... "Grace *be* with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."

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- Here is a very pertinent question.....
 - Do you and I love the Lord Jesus sincerely?
 - Are we as sincere about our Christian life as we were when we first came to Christ?
 - Or is being a Christian lost its saltiness?
- If so, there is hope...
 - Vs 5.....two “R” words
 - Remember.....”let a man examine himself”
 - Repent.....turn around and do the deeds you did at first

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- How do I do this?
 - Luke 9: 23-24
 - How do I deny myself?
 - Do that mean live like a hermit?
 - NO!!! It means to return to the Cross of Calvary
 - See the joy of your salvation
 - We are no longer saved by works but by the precious blood of Jesus Christ
- To him who overcomes.....
 - A feast is prepared from the tree of life