

*Note: The online version of the Sermon Notes and Study Guide may be found at:
<https://notes.subsplash.com/fill-in/view?page=ZMNtuRdkExi>*

:: Summary

The world the Church inhabits has dramatically changed. The good news is that Jesus Christ has not. Jesus will forever be the risen and reigning Lord of all. This Jesus knows, and cares deeply about, his Church.

Further, Jesus challenges His Church to be faithful and true in everything he desires it to be. The seven letters to the seven churches reflect the heart of our Lord and what he wants for his Church. He is serious about his message that calls for sober understanding, repentant hearts, obedient action.

Our world has changed and will continue to change. In this moment of history, it is a new day for His Church, and Jesus, who cares so much for his Church, cares for us, for our congregation. He has plans and purposes for every congregation but as seen in these letters, he requires active commitment, tough decisions and full obedience to fully participate in the mission of the Kingdom of God.

:: Share

Have you ever had an experience where God spoke to you in some form? (A clear suggestion, perhaps a vision, maybe an unmistakable God opportunity that you felt compelled to act on). What was it like and what happened as a result?

:: Explore and Discuss | Revelation 2:1-3:22

Have different members of your group each read one of the letters to the seven churches. Jesus commanded John to write these letters – it is his voice you hear.

What stands out to you in these letters?

“Nevertheless, I have this against you ...” Why does Jesus rebuke and command correction? How does this reflect his heart for his church?

Too many individual congregations are sadly, just social groupings of people of individualistic faith. What does it take for a congregation to embrace its true shared identity as a Christian Church, that is, being on mission in the name of and for Jesus? (Think in terms of organizational culture and values).

:: Apply it to Your Life



The Church is not a building or set of programs or service projects. The Church is you, me, all of us. If our fellowship is going to fully participate in the mission of Jesus, what is required of you personally?

If our church is to make a difference in advancing the Kingdom of God, we must acknowledge the important changes taking place including the cultural shift (downward) in church attendance, the shift to digital/online forms of Church engagement, and the change in demographics in our valley to name a few. Most importantly, we must fully embrace the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Are you personally, and do you think we together, are ready to make the tough decisions and commitments necessary to fully do our part for the sake of the Gospel?

:: Pray

Lord Jesus, thank you that you have called each of us into your forever family, the Church. Thank you that you take notice of and care deeply about each congregation. We ask you Lord, to help us hear your voice, your commendation, complaint, correction and encouragement for our future. Deeper still, give each of us a renewed heart and mind to do our part for the sake of the mission you have called us to. Help us to fully embrace the reality that eternity is at stake for the people of this world and instill in us a commitment to do anything and everything to reach people for you Jesus. Amen.

