

Series: Kingdom Come

Sermon Title: The Seven Churches in Revelation

Passage: Revelation 2-3

Preached: November 6, 2022 @ FBC Loganville by Chase Snyder

Main Point: Remain Faithful to Jesus.

Here are a few reminders about the Book of Revelation.

1. This was a letter written by John to seven churches.
 - a. These were churches under the Roman government in Asia, modern-day Turkey.
2. All seven churches would have read this whole letter.
3. The churches were experiencing intense persecution.
 - a. 65AD - Nero started persecuting Christians through the Roman Government.
 - b. 64AD or 65AD - Paul was beheaded in Rome
 - c. Christians in the Book of Acts prayed for boldness to share the Gospel even in persecution.
 - d. 64AD-68AD - Peter is crucified upside down
 - e. 69AD - Vespasian became the new emperor
 - f. 70AD - Temple Destroyed
 - g. 79AD - Vespasian died
 - h. 81AD - Domitian became the new emperor
 - i. He ruled longer than any other Ceasar and most historians agree that he was a tyrant worse than the others.
 - ii. He had John boiled alive in oil and sent to Patmos
 - iii. Wanted to be worshiped as Lord in Rome.
 1. Countercultural when we hear that we call Jesus our Lord, not a man or government.
 2. "And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy *is* the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come." And when the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever," (Revelation 4:8-9)
 - i. 97AD - Timothy is stoned to death
 - j. 99AD - John dies of old age.

- k. Christians were being boiled in oil, dipped in oil and lit on fire, fed to animals, wrongfully tried and sent to prison, beheaded, shamed, and the like.
- l. Book is written in the mid-90-97AD to Christians who have only known persecution and who are 60 years removed from Jesus and 30ish years removed from most of the Apostles like Peter and Paul.

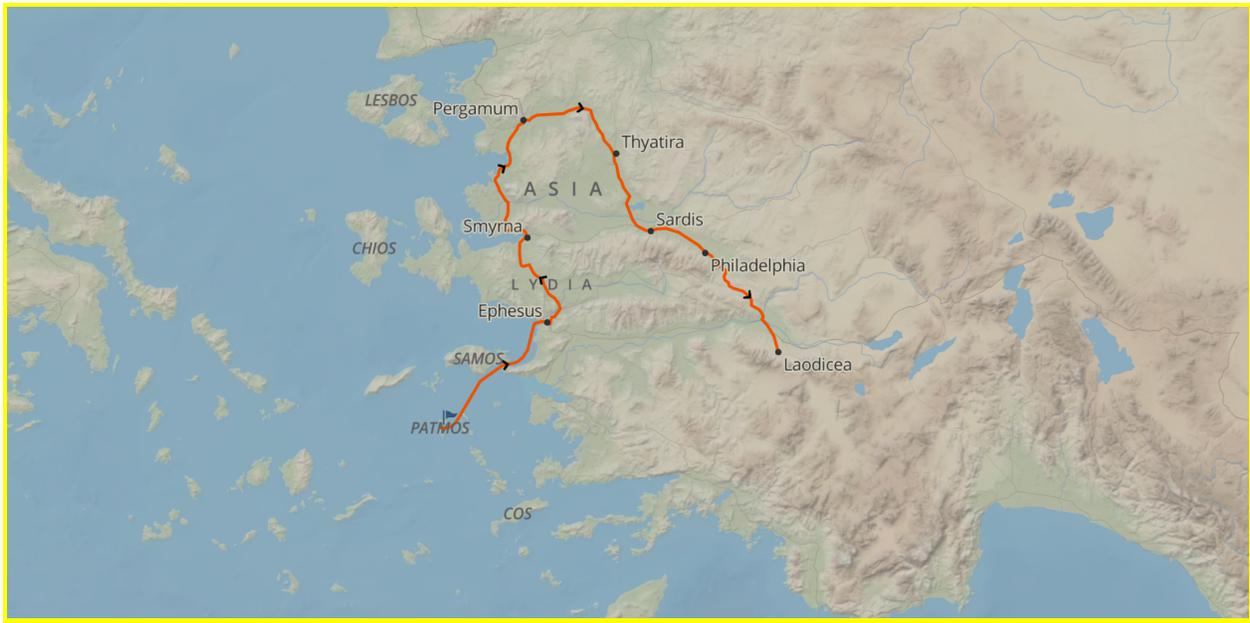
This is the message the Book of Revelation intended to get across for these persecuted Christians:

Remain faithful to Jesus.

There are three main themes in the Book of Revelation:

1. **God is in control:** God's not absent in trials and temptations. Satan will not win.
2. **Salvation is for everyone:** This is a theme that is present in the entire NT. Salvation extends beyond the Jewish people and is available to everyone. Revelation tells us what will happen when we meet Jesus face-to-face as sons and daughters or as those who have rejected Jesus.
3. **Jesus will return:** During their persecution they were being encouraged by the reminder that Jesus is active and he has not forgotten about his people. He will return and bring heaven to earth. Wrongs will be punished. God's children will be redeemed.

Because these things are true you need to remain faithful to Jesus.



Ephesus the Loveless Church (Revelation 2:1-7)

Revelation 2:1–7 (CSB)

¹“Write to the angel of the church in Ephesus: Thus says the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

²I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them to be liars.

³I know that you have persevered and endured hardships for the sake of my name, and you have not grown weary.

⁴But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first.

⁵Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

⁶Yet you do have this: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

⁷“Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Smyrna the Persecuted Church (Revelation 2:8-11)

Revelation 2:8–11 (CSB)

⁸“Write to the angel of the church in Smyrna: Thus says the First and the Last, the one who was dead and came to life:

⁹I know your affliction and poverty, but you are rich. I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

¹⁰Don’t be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will experience affliction for ten days. Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

¹¹“Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will never be harmed by the second death.

Pergamum the Church with False Doctrine (Revelation 2:12-17)

Revelation 2:12–17 (CSB)

¹²“Write to the angel of the church in Pergamum: Thus says the one who has the sharp, double-edged sword:

¹³I know where you live—where Satan’s throne is. Yet you are holding on to my name and did not deny your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness who was put to death among you, where Satan lives.

¹⁴But I have a few things against you. You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to place a stumbling block in front of the Israelites: to eat meat sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality.

¹⁵In the same way, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

¹⁶So repent! Otherwise, I will come to you quickly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

¹⁷“Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name is inscribed that no one knows except the one who receives it.

Thyatira the Immorally Led Church (Revelation 2:18-29)

Revelation 2:18–29 (CSB)

¹⁸“Write to the angel of the church in Thyatira: Thus says the Son of God, the one whose eyes are like a fiery flame and whose feet are like fine bronze:

¹⁹I know your works—your love, faithfulness, service, and endurance. I know that your last works are greater than the first.

²⁰But I have this against you: You tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and teaches and deceives my servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat meat sacrificed to idols.

²¹I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to repent of her sexual immorality.

²²Look, I will throw her into a sickbed and those who commit adultery with her into great affliction. Unless they repent of her works,

²³I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who examines minds and hearts, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

²⁴I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who haven’t known “the so-called secrets of Satan”—as they say—I am not putting any other burden on you.

²⁵Only hold on to what you have until I come.

²⁶The one who conquers and who keeps my works to the end: I will give him authority over the nations—

²⁷and he will rule them with an iron scepter; he will shatter them like pottery—
²⁸just as I have received this from my Father. I will also give him the morning star.
²⁹“Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

Sardis the Spiritually Dead Church (Revelation 3:1-6)

Revelation 3:1–6 (CSB)

¹“Write to the angel of the church in Sardis: Thus says the one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works; you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead.

²Be alert and strengthen what remains, which is about to die, for I have not found your works complete before my God.

³Remember, then, what you have received and heard; keep it, and repent. If you are not alert, I will come like a thief, and you have no idea at what hour I will come upon you.

⁴But you have a few people in Sardis who have not defiled their clothes, and they will walk with me in white, because they are worthy.

⁵“In the same way, the one who conquers will be dressed in white clothes, and I will never erase his name from the book of life but will acknowledge his name before my Father and before his angels.

⁶“Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

Philadelphia the Faithful Church (Revelation 3:7-13)

Revelation 3:7–13 (CSB)

⁷“Write to the angel of the church in Philadelphia: Thus says the Holy One, the true one, the one who has the key of David, who opens and no one will close, and who closes and no one opens:

⁸I know your works. Look, I have placed before you an open door that no one can close because you have but little power; yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

⁹Note this: I will make those from the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews and are not, but are lying—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and they will know that I have loved you.

¹⁰Because you have kept my command to endure, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is going to come on the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

¹¹I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one takes your crown.

¹²“The one who conquers I will make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never go out again. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God—the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God—and my new name.

¹³“Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

Laodicea the Self-Sufficient Church (Revelation 3:14-22)

Revelation 3:14–22 (CSB)

¹⁴“Write to the angel of the church in Laodicea: Thus says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the originator of God’s creation:

¹⁵I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot.

¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth.

¹⁷For you say, ‘I’m rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,’ and you don’t realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

¹⁸I advise you to buy from me gold refined in the fire so that you may be rich, white clothes so that you may be dressed and your shameful nakedness not be exposed, and ointment to spread on your eyes so that you may see.

¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be zealous and repent.

²⁰See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

²¹“To the one who conquers I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

²²“Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Being self-sufficient makes us inefficient in the Great Commission.

What is our response?

What would Jesus write to our church? To you?

Would we know the things that he would encourage us to continue doing?

Would we know the things that he would correct and expect us to change?

Thankfully we have the Bible and that is a great starting place for us to be encouraged and corrected to make sure our doctrine and devotion align with Jesus.

Are we being faithful to Jesus in a culture that doesn't follow Jesus?