

# Revelation 2-3

## Seven Churches

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Circuit letter



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Circuit letter

Typify churches in general

1. Keys to parts of Revelation
2. Lessons on churches



To The Church at Ephesus

# To The Church at Ephesus

The Good:

The Bad:

The Admonition:

The Key:

# To The Church at Ephesus

The Good: Congregational/doctrinal purity

The Bad: Left the first love

The Admonition: Repent and return

The Key: *To Him who overcomes, he will eat of the tree of life*

# To The Church at Smyrna

The Good:

The Bad:

The Admonition:

The Key:

# To The Church at Smyrna

The Good: Faithful in tribulation

~~The Bad~~:

The Admonition: Remain faithful unto death

The Key: *To Him who overcomes, he will not be hurt by the second death.*



# To The Church at Pergamos

The Good:

The Bad:

The Admonition:

The Key:

# To The Church at Pergamos

The Good: Holding fast to the name

The Bad: Tolerance of false teachers

The Admonition: Repent (purify)

The Key: *I will give you hidden manna, put your name on a white stone.*

# To The Church at Thyatira

The Good:

The Bad:

The Admonition:

The Key:

# To The Church at Thyatira

The Good: Service of love, faith and patience

The Bad: Tolerance of a false teacher

The Admonition: Hold fast to Truth (purify)

The Key: *I will give authority over the nations, and you will rule over them and I will give him the morning Star*

# To The Church at Sardis

The Good:

The Bad:

The Admonition:

The Key:

# To The Church at Sardis

The Good:

The Bad: This is a dead congregation

The Admonition: Return to your first deeds

The Key: *To those who have not soiled their garments, he will be clothed in white and will have his name written in the book of life of life*

# To The Church at Philadelphia

The Good:

The Bad:

The Admonition:

The Key:

# To The Church at Philadelphia

The Good: Full of works and perseverance

~~The Bad~~:

The Admonition: Endure

The Key: *I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, .... and I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem*



# To The Church at Laodicea

The Good:

The Bad:

The Admonition:

The Key:

# To The Church at Laodicea

The Good:

The Bad: Pride and ambivalence

The Admonition: Be zealous and self-inspect

The Key: *Buy from me gold refined in fire and White Garments. He who overcomes will sit at my throne with me*

# A Seven Church Review

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Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

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Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

# A Seven Church Review

Ephesus

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# A Seven Church Review

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea



**FAIL**

**FAIL**



# Missing the Mark

Missing what is important



What is important = the purpose of a church

Purpose: Why are we here? For what reason?

# What Is The Church's Purpose

Is it up to a church to determine its purpose?

- Making itself larger (fiscal and numeric)
- Merging a social and spiritual need
- Solving social problems

Churches with self-determined purposes:

Sardis and Laodicea (DEAD!)

# What Is The Church's Purpose

Should a church determine purpose priority?

Making a purpose the sole priority

Danger – focus on one to the neglect of others

Churches with mis-focused purposes:

Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira (SICK!)

# What Is The Church's Purpose

A healthy church:

- 1) Functions for divine purposes
- 2) Focuses attention on ALL purposes



# SIX Purposes of a Church

## 6. Evangelism

Necessary inference of the Great Commission

Necessary inference of support of evangelists

# SIX Purposes of a Church

6. Evangelism

5. Organization

1 Tim. 3:1-15, Titus 1:5-9, Heb. 13:7-17

# SIX Purposes of a Church

6. Evangelism

5. Organization

4. Worship

Acts 20:17, 1 Cor. 16:2, 1 Cor. 11-14

# SIX Purposes of a Church

6. Evangelism

5. Organization

4. Worship

3. Edification

Eph. 4:12-16

50+ "*one another*" passages



# SIX Purposes of a Church

6. Evangelism
5. Organization
4. Worship
3. Edification
2. Benevolence

Acts 2, 5, 12, 1 Cor. 16, 2 Cor. 7-8, etc.

Fulfilling the promises of Christ from Matthew 6

# SIX Purposes of a Church

6. Evangelism
5. Organization
4. Worship
3. Edification
2. Benevolence
1. Purity

*“endeavoring to  
keep the unity of  
the Spirit in the  
bond of peace”  
Ephesians 4:3*

# Prioritized Purposes

6. Evangelism
5. Organization
4. Worship
3. Edification
2. Benevolence
1. Purity

*“These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone”*

# Benefits of Approval

1) Need not fear the future

*"Do not fear any of those things"* Rev. 2:10

*"God who causes the growth"* 1 Cor. 3:7

*"An open door which no one can shut"* Rev. 3:8

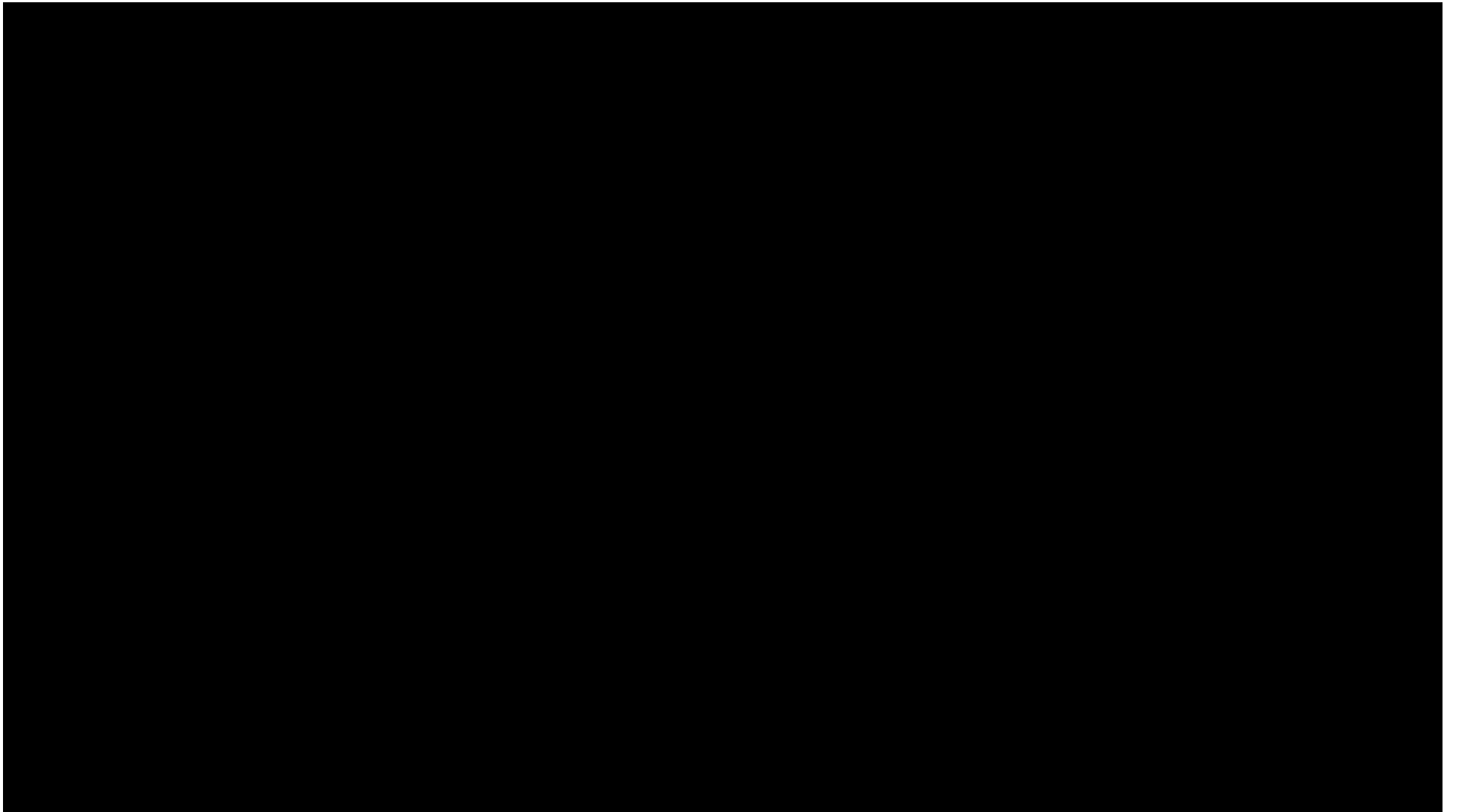
# A Seven Church Message

1) Keys to revealing Revelation

2) Message to churches today

- Expectations of purpose

- A church CAN lose its “franchise”



# The New Covenant

*"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

Jeremiah 31:34-35

# Inheritance of the Kingdom

*Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

1 Corinthians 6:11

*Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*

Matthew 28:19