



## VII Letters to the Churches

### A Study in the Book of Revelations

<i>To the angel of the church in ____ write:</i>	<b>1. Ephesus 2:1-7</b>	<b>2. Smyrna 2:8-11</b>	<b>3. Pergamum 2:12-17</b>	<b>4. Thyatira 2:18-29</b>	<b>5. Sardis 3:1-6</b>	<b>6. Philadelphia 3:7-13</b>	<b>7. Laodicia 3:14-22</b>
<b>A. Portrayal of Jesus</b>	These are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands:	These are the words of Him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.	These are the words of Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.	These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.	These are the words of Him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.	These are the words of Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open.	These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.
<b>B. Praise for the Church</b>	<p><sup>2</sup> I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup> You have persevered and have endured hardships for My name, and have not grown weary.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.</p>	<p><sup>9</sup> I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.</p>	<p><sup>13</sup> I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to My name. You did not renounce your faith in Me, even in the days of Antipas, My faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.</p>	<p><sup>19</sup> I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.</p> <p><sup>24</sup> ... (I will not impose any other burden on you):</p>	<p><sup>1</sup> . . . I know your deeds;...</p> <p><sup>4</sup> Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with Me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.</p>	<p><sup>8</sup> I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> Since you have kept My command to endure patiently, . . .</p>	<p><sup>15</sup> I know your deeds, ...</p>

	1. Ephesus 2:1-7	2. Smyrna 2:8-11	3. Pergamum 2:12-17	4. Thyatira 2:18-29	5. Sardis 3:1-6	6. Philadelphia 3:7-13	7. Laodicia 3:14-22
C. Criticism of the Church	<sup>4</sup> Yet <u>I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.</u>		<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, <u>I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam</u> , who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup> Likewise <u>you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.</u>	<sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, <u>I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel</u> , who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads My servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.	<sup>1</sup> . . . ; <u>you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.</u>		<sup>15</sup> . . . , that <u>you are neither cold nor hot.</u> . . .  <sup>17</sup> You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that <u>you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.</u>
D. Exhortation: 1. Correction/ Encouragement	<sup>5</sup> <b>Remember</b> the height from which you have fallen! <b>Repent</b> and do the things you did at first.	<sup>10</sup> <b>Do not be afraid</b> of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. <b>Be faithful</b> , even to the point of death,	<sup>16</sup> <b>Repent</b> therefore!	<sup>24</sup> Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): <sup>25</sup> Only <b>hold on to what you have until I come.</b>	<sup>2</sup> <b>Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of My God.</b> <sup>3</sup> <b>Remember</b> , therefore, what you have received and heard; <b>obey it, and repent.</b>	<sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. <b>Hold on to what you have</b> , so that no one will take your crown.	<sup>18</sup> I counsel you to <b>buy from Me gold refined in the fire</b> , so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. <sup>19</sup> Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So <b>be earnest, and repent.</b>

