
The Book of Revelation: Session 3

Revelation 1:12-2:7

YouTube: “Verse by Verse Teaching | Revelation 1:12-2:7 | Gary Hamrick”
(43 minutes, taught on March 4, 2020)

Notes:

“The church is to be a light in a dark world. ... Don’t scream at the darkness. Turn on the light.”

Description of Jesus in Revelation 1:13-16:

- V. 13 – His majesty
- V. 14 – His purity
- V. 15 – His authority
- V. 16 – His glory (shekinah)

The period of time each church in Revelation 2-3 represents:

- Ephesus: 33-100 AD
- Smyrna: 100-312 AD
- Pergamos: 312-606 AD
- Thyatira: 606-1517 AD
- Sardis: 1517-1750 AD
- Philadelphia: 1750-Rapture
- Laodicea: 1900-Tribulation

EPHESUS — THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH (33-100 A.D.)

JESUS' TITLE: “Him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands”

COMMENDATION: Hardworking; persevering; discerning of false doctrine (the Nicolaitans)

COMPLAINT: Left their first love

REWARD: To eat from the tree of life in the paradise of God

“Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you ... but you can leave Him. ... We didn’t lose our salvation. ... But there can be a deliberate, willful, intentional denying of the faith, and leaving of Christ, and rejecting Him, and no longer believing that He is Lord and Saviour.”

Nicolaitans: “to conquer the laity.” “One of the things that Jesus has trouble with is a hierarchical thing in the church, ... when ... man stands between God and man, when you can only get to the Father through a human being. ... No human being is the mediator between God and man.”



One side of a coin dedicated to the goddess Artemis/Diana. Note the palm tree to the left. Perhaps Jesus had this in mind when He mentions the “tree of life” in Revelation 2:7.

Questions:

1. Read Revelation 1:12-16. Which description of Jesus in these verses particularly catches your attention? Why does this aspect of who He is resonate with you at this moment in time?
2. Read Revelation 1:17-20. Chuck Swindoll writes: “The vision of the long robe, golden sash, white hair, flaming gaze, bronze feet, bellowing voice, and brilliant features all point to one thing: Jesus Christ is God!” He concludes, “The better our understanding of who Christ really is, the quicker we’ll respond in submission and obedience,” as John the Apostle did. Though Jesus is our friend, He is also the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, holding the “keys of death and Hades” (v. 18). Generally speaking, does the present-day church in Canada need to embrace more the meek and mild aspect of Jesus, or the aspect we see here in Revelation 1? Why?
3. Read Revelation 2:1-3. In Acts 20, Paul tells the elders of the Ephesian church to “be on your guard” (Acts 20:31), guarding their flock from false teaching. Over three decades later, according to Jesus, her leaders continue to be successful in this. What false teachings do we need to guard against nowadays? What needs to happen (i.e. what factors need to be actively at work) for this guarding to be effective?
4. Read Revelation 2:4-7. The church even “hates” the practices of the Nicolaitans, likely some form of compromise – the church assimilating to the surrounding culture. But, they have “forsaken their first love” (v. 4 NIV). What do you suspect is going on within the Ephesian church? Marty Culy (biblical scholar) believes that the church in Ephesus was doing a good job at playing defense (keeping out false teaching) but forgot to play offense (telling their world the good news of Jesus). Whatever the problem is in Ephesus, what does Jesus tell them (and us) to do?

Want to dig deeper? Engage with this sermon by John MacArthur, taught in 1992:

- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-6/ephesus-when-love-grows-cold>