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5-13-2022

THE SEVEN CHURCHES – Lesson 9 OF 9

SUMMARY

We have looked at each of the seven churches of Revelation chapters 2 and 3. What can we take away from this that applies to us today?

Two of the churches, Sardis and Laodicea were essentially “bad,” and severely chastised. Sardis was spiritually dead and quite backslidden. Laodicea’s wealth had caused complacency and they were now lukewarm. Their works and religion were more out of a sense of religious duty rather than zeal for the gospel and its Christ.

Three of the churches were part good and part bad. Jesus complimented Thyatira on their good works, love, service, faith, patience, and their growth. He condemned them for allowing the spirit of Jezebel to take a stronghold and promoting fornication and all manner of sexual sin. This criticism was also leveled at Pergamos (Pergamum) in the “doctrine of Balaam” for sexual sin and for worldliness in general.

Both Thyatira and Pergamos were criticized for eating meat offered to idols. That is because it gives entrance for demon spirits that are attached to such things. There are many inanimate objects and even animals (including domestic ones) to which demon spirits can attach themselves to. We should be careful to discern such things and avoid them (and get rid of anything questionable).

Ephesus was also both good and bad. They had many good qualities, but the criticism was that they had left their first love of the gospel and its Christ. Their hearts had grown cold. They needed to return to the love and zeal which they once had. Sardis was also spiritually dead.

Jesus had no criticism of Philadelphia. They appeared to be a model church. Their works were good, they stayed strong, and kept Jesus’ word faithfully.

The common instruction to all seven churches as well as to you and me today is to keep our spiritual ears tuned to the Holy Spirit. ***“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the (Holy) Spirit saith...”***

As we read the word, and then study it deeper, Holy Spirit speaks to us through it. If we do not read the word of God then our spiritual ears can become dull of hearing, and we become weak in our relationship with God.

Be diligent in prayer and in meditating upon the Word.