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THE SEVEN CHURCHES – LESSON 1

I wish now to look at the seven churches of Revelation chapters 2 and 3 to see what there is in each of them that applies to us today. I am not going to attempt explaining the seven stars or the seven angels as there are varying views about that. However, I will point out that there is a four-fold application espoused by numerous scholars as follows:

1. Local to the actual churches in existence at the time the apostle John wrote this. It applies to them in their own real time around 90 to 96 A.D. We will look at their background.
2. As an admonition to all churches from that time to our present time. We will examine how it touches the churches of our present time.
3. Personal exhortations that apply to us as individual believers. This will receive my main focus.
4. Prophetic as it discloses seven distinct phases of spiritual history of the church establishment through the centuries. Scant attention will be given to this.

A recurring admonition given in every case is ***“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”*** This speaks both to the church leadership and to every individual believer.

How do we have “an ear to hear” the Holy Spirit? First, it is to diligently read the written word, then dig deeper into study of what we read (not merely casual reading). Second, pray in the Holy Spirit (tongues) then quietly meditate on it to allow Holy Spirit to reveal understanding.

Unfortunately, the majority of those who claim Christianity are not “Spirit filled,” and many are not even saved at all which makes “hearing” impossible. That includes many in church leadership and even pastors and administrators.

For those of us with a true relationship in Christ and with Holy Spirit, we all need to sharpen our spiritual ears so we can understand the Word of God as the Spirit enlightens us.

The seven churches are:

1. Ephesus, Revelation 2:1-7
2. Smyrna, Revelation 2:8-11
3. Pergamos, Revelation 2:12-17
4. Thyatira, Revelation 2:18-29
5. Sardis, Revelation 3:1-6
6. Philadelphia, Revelation 3:7-13
7. Laodicea, Revelation 3:14-19

We shall look at Ephesus Tomorrow