**11/28/21 Okay, Which Church Are You a Member? Revelation 1-3**

**Introduction**

* We will discuss the seven churches in Asia Minor and a unique, urgent and important message Jesus sent to each church through the vision John saw.
* These were seven actual congregations. Each had its own situation with specific circumstances, problems, and opportunities.
* Some have said that each church represents the seven different eras of church history. While others point to them as the seven types of churches that are always in existence in the world at any given time.
* Revelation means “an uncovering,” “an unveiling,” or “a disclosure.”
* In the NT, this word describes the unveiling of spiritual truth, the revealing of the sons of God, Christ’s Incarnation, and His glorious appearing at His Second Coming.

**Romans 16:25, 8:19; Galatians 1:12; Ephesians 1:17; 3:3; Luke 2:32; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:7**

**The Message that John received**

* A revelation from Jesus Christ which God gave him concerning the events that will happen soon.
* John faithfully reported the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ; everything he saw.
* God blesses the one who reads this prophecy to the church, and He blesses all who listen to it and obey what it says.
* John was worshipping and heard a voice telling him to write down what he saw and send it to the seven churches of Asia Minor, which is modern day Turkey.
* The seven stars are the pastors and the seven lampstands are the seven churches

**Revelation 1**

**Letters to each of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor**

**Revelation 2-3**

**The Message to the Church in Ephesus**

**The Commendation:**

* Jesus says, I know all the things you do, I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people.
* You have exposed false apostles through the Scriptures.
* You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.
* You hate the deeds of the immoral Nicolaitans just as I do.

**The Condemnation:**

* You have left your first love.
* There was no passionate pursuit of an intimate relationship with Christ in the church. They were merely following a program. Duty had replaced devotion.

**The Message to the Church in Smyrna**

**The Commendation:**

* I know about your suffering and your poverty, but you are rich!
* I know the slander of those opposing you; they say they are Jews, but they really aren't because theirs is a synagogue of Satan.
* You will be persecuted for ten days. Remain faithful even when facing death, and I will give you the crown of life.

**The Condemnation: none**

**The Message to the Church in Pergamos**

**The Commendation:**

* You live in the city where that great throne of Satan is located, and yet you have remained loyal to me.
* You refused to deny me even when Antipas, my faithful witness, was martyred among you by Satan's followers.

**The Condemnation:**

* You tolerate some among you who are like Balaam. He taught them to worship idols by eating food offered to idols and by committing sexual sin.
* You have some Nicolaitans among you who follow the same teaching and commit the same sins.

**The Message to the Church in Thyatira**

**The Commendation:**

* I know all the things you do: your love, your faith, your service, and your patient endurance, and I can see your constant improvement in all these things.
* Those who have not followed Jezebel’s false teaching, I will ask nothing more of you except that you hold tightly to what you have until I come.
* To all who are victorious, who obey Me to the very end, I will give authority over all the nations.

**The Condemnation:**

* You are permitting that woman, Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet to lead my servants astray. She is encouraging them to worship idols, eat food offered to idols, and commit sexual sin.
* I will strike her children dead, and all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve.

**The Message to the Church in Sardis**

**The Commendation:**

* Yet even in Sardis, there are some who have not soiled their garments with evil deeds. They will walk with me in white for they are worthy.
* He that overcometh will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, I will announce before my Father and His angels that they are Mine.

**The Condemnation:**

* I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead.
* Wake up! Stop your spiritual sleeping! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is at the point of death. Your deeds are far from right in the sight of God.
* Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly and turn to Me again. Repent first unless you do, I will come upon you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief.

**The Message to the Church in Philadelphia**

**The Commendation:**

* I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can shut.
* You have little strength, yet you obeyed my Word and did not deny Me.
* Because you have obeyed My command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.
* Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.
* All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of My God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write My God's name on them, and they will be citizens in the city of My God.

**The Condemnation: none**

**The Message to the Church in Laodicea**

**The Commendation: none**

**The Condemnation:**

* I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish you were one or the other! I will spit you out of My mouth!
* You say, ‘I am rich; I have everything I want; I don't need a thing!’ And you don't realize that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.
* Buy white garments so you will not be shamed by your nakedness; and buy ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see.
* I am the one who corrects and disciplines everyone I love. Be diligent and repent!