

Letters to the seven churches – What does Jesus want in a church?

Read Revelation 1:9-20 (EHV).

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingship and patient endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus.

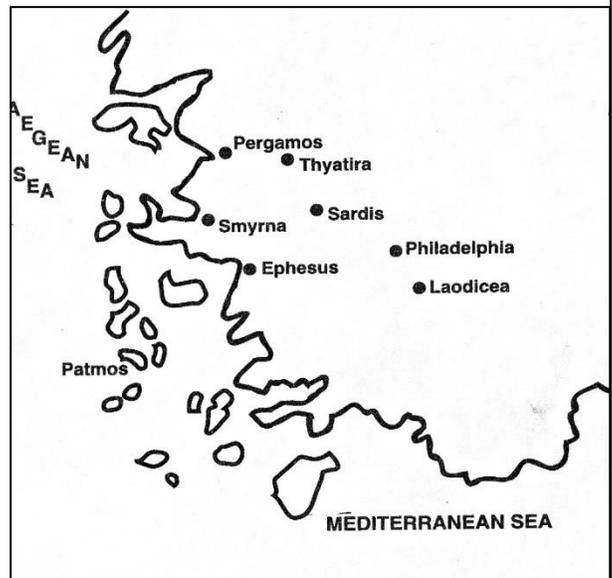
¹⁰ I was in spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard a loud voice behind me, like a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, "Write what you see on a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

¹² I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me. When I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was one like a son of man. He was clothed with a robe that reached to his feet, and around his chest he wore a gold sash. ¹⁴ His head and his hair were white, like white wool or like snow. His eyes were like blazing flames. ¹⁵ His feet were like polished bronze being refined in a furnace. His voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ He held seven stars in his right hand. A sharp two-edged sword was coming out of his mouth. His face was shining as the sun shines in all its brightness.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand on me and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last – ¹⁸ the Living One. I was dead and, see, I am alive forever and ever! I also hold the keys of death and hell.

¹⁹ "So write what you have seen, both those things that are and those that will take place after this.

²⁰ "The mystery of the seven stars, which you saw in my right hand, and the seven gold lampstands is this: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."



1. John was told to write down what he saw and send letters to seven churches. Why did John react the way he did when he saw Jesus?
2. What tremendous comfort did Jesus give to John, and by extension Jesus gives to us?

Letter 1 sent to the church in Ephesus: A church beginning to decline

Read Revelation 2:1-7 (EHV).

To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write:

The one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven gold lampstands, says this:

²I know your works, your labor, and your patient endurance, and that you are not able to tolerate evil people. You have tested those who say they are apostles, but are not, and have found them to be liars. ³Indeed, you do have patient endurance. You have endured hardships on account of my name and have not become weary.

⁴But I have this against you: You have forsaken your first love. ⁵Remember, therefore, the state from which you have fallen! Repent and do the works you did at first. Otherwise I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, if you do not repent.

⁶But you do have this: You hate the actions of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

⁷Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious I will give the privilege to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

1. What were some of the events that took place in Ephesus when Paul was on his Third Missionary Journey? (*Look up Acts 19 in your Bibles.*)
2. What was *good* in the church at Ephesus?
3. What was *bad* in the church at Ephesus?
4. How might we “forsake our first love”?
5. What *promise* does Jesus give?

Summarize: What does Jesus want in a church?

Jesus wants a church that does not _____ her _____
_____.

December 12

- Smyrna: A church strong in tribulation
- Pergemum: A church lax in discipline
- Thyatira: A church with emotional tendency

December 19

- Sardis: A church about to die
- Philadelphia: A church with an open door
- Laodicea: A church that was sickening to Jesus