



SEVEN SPECIAL MESSAGES FROM JESUS

The New Testament books are primarily letters written by the apostles to churches or individuals. True Christians, from that time to the present, accept all these letters as God's authoritative word.

Revelation, one of the New Testament books, bears the name of Jesus Himself. In fact, the book is entitled, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ". Revelation begins with seven special letters from Jesus to the churches. Surely these letters of love and special counsel, direct from Jesus, should receive our greatest attention and our best possible response.

Tragically, these seven special letters have been almost entirely ignored. Satan, the enemy of God's people, must rejoice to see that most Christians are not following Jesus' counsel found in His love letters to us in Revelation. Thank God it is not too late! This Revelation Seminar comes to grips with these seven great messages. May the Holy Spirit guide as we study chapters two and three of Revelation, and listen to Jesus' crucial counsel for busy Christians in the 80's.

1. Why did Jesus warn against changing His Word?

a. Revelation 22:18

If I add anything to Revelation, God will add to me the _____

b. Revelation 22:19

If I subtract anything from Revelation, God will remove my name from _____

NOTE: Everything in Revelation is important, and absolutely nothing can be left out; nor can anything be added to improve it!

2. Where were these seven churches located? Rev. 1:4

In _____

NOTE: Though these seven letters were originally written to the seven churches in Asia, the messages apply to all Christians today, as do all the other letters or books of the Bible. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

3. What are the three basic messages to these churches?

a. God knows all about me. He says, "I know thy _____".

NOTE: God is concerned about my conduct and this fact is repeated to all the churches. Rev. 2:2, 9, 13, 19 and 3:1, 8, 15.

b. Overcoming is imperative. "To him that _____."

NOTE: This takes place only through Jesus, and its importance is strongly emphasized to each church. Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26 and 3:5, 12, 21.

c. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Jesus counsels, "Hear what the _____ saith ..."

NOTE: God's Holy Spirit convicts people of sin and leads them to repentance. John 16:8, 13. Without the Holy Spirit no one ever feels sorry for sin or finds the new birth experience. No wonder Jesus stressed so forcefully the importance of listening to His Spirit! Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29 and 3:6, 13, 22.

4. What do the seven churches represent?

As we study further, you will clearly see they represent seven periods of Christian history, from the time of John to the time of Jesus' return.

sick and in need of heavenly healing. This condition is alarming, and needs prompt attention!

17. Name three things Jesus tells us to buy. Revelation 3:18

1 _____, 2 _____, 3 _____.

1. **GOLD** means the true riches of heaven which are manifested in a Christ-like character. This comes from a knowledge of God's Word applied by faith in your life and revealed by deeds of love. Psalms 19:7-10; Gal. 5:6; James 2:5; Job 23:10.

2. **WHITE RAIMENT** means Jesus' robe of righteousness. Isaiah 61:10 and Revelation 19:8. It is given by Jesus as a free gift. We do nothing to earn it. We receive it by faith alone and it is retained by faith. Zechariah 3:1-5; Romans 1:17.

3. **EYESALVE** means (a) Discernment to understand God's Word. Psalm 119:18; 1 John 2:20,27. (b) Holy Spirit to help us see our true condition and make proper choices. John 14:26; Eph. 1:17-19.

18. How can I receive these precious gifts? Revelation 3:20

Open my heart's _____ and let _____ enter my life.

NOTE: Though Jesus can open many doors, He will not force open the door to my heart. This I must do myself.

19. Are you willing to accept these gifts?

Answer: _____

NOTE: Jesus says His last-day church is not ready for His appearing. His counsel to us in Revelation 3 is fantastic. However, He has much more to say to us in the remaining 19 chapters of Revelation. Some of His counsel may be startling or even shocking, but since it is His counsel, I want it anyway. Don't you?

Answer: _____

the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries (1790's A.D. to 1840's A.D.). During this time the birth and expansion of foreign missions took place. The American and British Bible Societies were organized. Great revival preachers like Wesley and Whitefield came on the scene. A study of the Books of Daniel and Revelation sparked the greatest religious awakening since the Reformation. Jesus offers no reproof to this church.



LAODICEA — CHRISTIANITY TODAY

16. What is Laodicea's problem? Revelation 3:16, 18

- We are "_____".
- We feel we are spiritually _____ and need nothing when we are actually _____, miserable, poor, blind, and _____."

NOTE: The Laodicean era of the church covers the second half of the 19th century on through to the time when Jesus returns (1840's A.D. to the end of time). Our hearts hurt to see that Laodicea represents the church of today. It is a church that is big and boastful, but is dreadfully

Because space is limited, we will emphasize only the key points for each era.

EPHESUS — ERA OF APOSTLES

5. Why was the church of Ephesus rebuked? Revelation 2:4

"They had _____ their _____ love."

NOTE: Ephesus, the church of the Apostles, represents God's church in the first century A.D. which grew with incredible speed. There were six million Christians scattered all over the world when the century ended. However, they lost their original love for Jesus and His wonderful message of salvation. We too must be careful on this point!

6. Why was the church of Ephesus commended? Revelation 2:2

"Thou hast _____ them which _____ they are apostles, and are _____."

NOTE: They withstood false teachers openly, and Jesus commended them for this. The Nicolaitans advocated spiritual compromise with worldly practices. They felt their liberty gave them freedom to practice idolatry and immorality. (This sounds like the new morality that is creeping into some of the churches of today.)

SMYRNA — ERA OF PERSECUTION

7. What encouragement did Jesus give Smyrna? Revelation 2:10

"Be thou _____ unto _____ and I will give thee a _____ of _____"

NOTE: Smyrna represents the church from about 100 A.D. through 313 A.D. This was a fearful time of persecution and martyrdom. The Roman Empire tried to stamp out Christianity. Only God knows how many of His children were beheaded, burned, fed to lions, or slain by the sword. The church in this period lived so close to Jesus that He gave them no reproof, only words of encouragement.

8. What promise was given to Smyrna? Revelation 2:11

They shall not experience "the _____ death".

NOTE: All must die the first death (Hebrews 9:27), but there is a resurrection from the first death, I Corinthians 15:51-54. The second death is the one in which the lost die in the fire, Revelation 21:8. From this death there is no resurrection.

PERGAMOS — ERA OF COMPROMISE

9. Satan attacked Pergamos by the false teachings at?

Revelation 2:14, 15

a. A man, _____ . b. A group, _____

NOTE: Pergamos covers the church during the 4th, 5th and first part of the 6th centuries. It is the era of state-supported religion and compromise. The Roman Emperor, Constantine, and his entire army were baptized and joined the church. Satan could not destroy the church by persecution, so he corrupted it by popularity and worldly practices. Pagan practices and beliefs came into the church.

THYATIRA — ERA OF APOSTASY

10. Who was the woman who corrupted Thyatira? Revelation 2:20

An evil woman named " _____ ."

NOTE: Thyatira covers church history for nearly 1,000 years, from the last half of the 6th through the first half of the 16th centuries (538 A.D. to 1560's A.D.). This period is sometimes called the Dark Ages. The Bible was pushed aside, and it was a time of fearful apostasy, represented by the influence of the evil woman, Jezebel, upon the ancient nation of Israel. Therefore, Jezebel symbolized the apostasy of this era, which grew to great proportions and plunged the Christian world into the Dark Ages, as superstition and tradition superseded the teachings of the Bible.

11. What warning does God give to followers of Jezebel?

a. Revelation 2:22

"cast... them... into great _____ ."

b. Revelation 2:23

" _____ her _____ with _____ ."

NOTE: Any unfaithfulness to Jesus or His pure teachings is called adultery or fornication. The punishments (sickness, tribulation and

death) are indeed real. Neither the church, the state, nor false teachers will escape God's punishment for spiritual adultery.

12. Who were the "rest" who opposed this corruption?

Revelation 2:24

The rest who "have not this _____ ."

NOTE: This refers to the powerful ministry of many great spiritual leaders whom God raised up to expose error and apostasy, and to lead His church back to Jesus and Bible truth. Their names are well known: Wycliffe, Huss, Jerome, Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, Knox, etc. Though many of these men lived in the Sardis era, some had already begun to bring reform into the church during the last part of the Thyatira period of church history.

SARDIS — ERA OF REFORMATION

13. Whose striking words describe Sardis? Revelation 3:1

The words of Jesus, "Thou _____ , and art _____ ."

NOTE: Jesus here points out that formal religion is worthless. Paul describes such religion as "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." 11 Timothy 3:5.

14. What tragedy was about to happen in Sardis? Revelation 3:2

Sardis was ready to _____ ."

NOTE: Sardis embraces Christianity in the 16th, 17th and first part of the 18th centuries (1560's A.D to 1790's A.D.). It covers the crucial period of reformation when spirit-filled men of God shook the world with their messages. But, alas, when these men died, their followers, instead of prayerfully seeking more truth, went backward with astounding rapidity. This solemn lesson is for us today. Keep pursuing truth, and follow it as you find it, then all of God's blessings will come into your life.

PHILADELPHIA — ERA OF REVIVAL

15. What does the name Philadelphia mean?

The name literally means "brotherly love"

NOTE: The Philadelphia era of the church covers the second half of