



## THE SEVEN IGNORED MESSAGES OF JESUS

The books of the New Testament are largely letters written by apostles to various churches or individuals. Christendom, in general; accepts all these fetters as God's authoritative word to the church today.

But one of the New Testament books, Revelation, bears the name of JESUS, Himself. In fact, the book is entitled, 'The Revelation of Jesus Christ'. It begins with seven specific letters or epistles from Jesus to the churches. Of all the letters, or epistles, of the New Testament, surely, these personal letters of love, with special counsel from our Lord, should receive the greatest attention and concern by His people

But it is not so.. Tragically, these seven imperative letters from Jesus have been almost entirely: ignored Satan, the archenemy of God's people, must; certainly rejoice that .most Christians are not listening to .Jesus' Important counsel from His own extraordinary book of Revelation,.

Thank God, it is not too late. This Revelation Seminar comes to grips with these seven great messages May the Holy Spirit guide us as we study chapters two and three of Revelation, and listen to Jesus' crucial counsel for busy Christians in the 80's.

### 1. What solemn warning does Jesus give in regard to the extreme importance of every word of Revelation? Revelation 22:18, 19

**Ans: a.** If I add anything to Revelation, God will add to me

**Ans: b.** If I subtract anything from Revelation, God will remove my name from \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: Most notes for this lesson are on Exhibit #2. See Point 1 for the note for Question One.

**2. Where were those seven churches located? Revelation 1:4**

**Ans:** \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 2.

NOTICE: This seminar has provided you with a very important overview of Jesus' messages to the seven churches. Please study it carefully PRIOR to our next seminar session. We will be discussing two chapters in Revelation in one evening, and must cover all points quickly. It will be much easier for you to follow if you acquaint yourself with this overview sheet ahead of time. It is labelled "Exhibit #1". Also, please read chapters two and three of Revelation before the session.

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**3. Three statements that Jesus makes to the seven churches are so exceptionally Important and so relevant to Christians in all eras that they were given to all seven churches. What are these three statements that were made to all seven churches?**

**a. Revelation 2:2; 2:9; 2:13; 2:19; 3:1; 3:8; and 3:15**

**Ans:** "I know thy \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 3-a

**b. Revelation 2:7; 2:11, 17; 2:26; 3:5; 3:12 and 3:21**

**Ans:** "To him that \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 3-b.

**c. Revelation 2:7; 2:11, 17; 2:29; 3:6; 3:13 and 3:22**

**Ans:** "Hear what the \_\_\_\_\_ saith unto the churches".

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 3-c.

**HERE ARE GOD'S THREE MESSAGES TO EVERY PERSON TODAY.**

**1. God knows all about me. I cannot deceive Him.**

**2. "Overcoming" Is Imperative. It takes place only through Jesus.**

**3. I must heed the voice of the Holy Spirit at all times.**

is a resurrection from the first death, I Corinthians 15:51-54. The second death is the one the lost die in the fire, Revelation 21:8. From this death there is no resurrection.

**8.** Balaam, according to the book of Numbers, chapter 22-24, was a prophet of God who turned traitor to secure worldly gain and kingly favours. He symbolizes the spirit of the Pergamos period when believers compromised true Christianity to gain the favour of Roman officials. For "Nicolaitans" see NOTE under question 5.

**9.** Jezebel was the heathen wife of Ahab, one of the Old Testament kings of Israel. She was very wicked and very powerful, I Kings 16,18,19,20 (581); II Kings 9 (613). She hated and persecuted God's church and its prophets and endeavoured to wipe them out. She imported 850 heathen priests or prophets and instituted an apostate system of religion. She then enforced it by state decree. In Revelation, Jezebel symbolizes the apostasy that began in the latter days of the apostles, II Thessalonians 2:3,7 (1739), and which grew to such proportions that under the Thyatira era the church and the world were led into the Dark Ages.

**10.** In Scripture, the relationship between Jesus and His church is represented by marriage. Jesus is the groom; His church, the bride. Any unfaithfulness to Jesus or His pure teachings is thus called adultery or fornication. The punishments threatened of sickness, tribulation and death are indeed real. Neither the church, the state, nor false teachers will escape God's punishment for spiritual unfaithfulness or adultery.

**11.** The last part of verse 19 indicates things would finally begin to change for the better. This, doubtless, refers to the powerful ministry of many great spiritual leaders whom God raised up to expose error and apostasy and 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 served the Sardis era of the church, some had already begun work in the last part of this time period.

**12.** This solemn lesson is for us today. Keep pursuing truth and follow it as you find it and blessings will come. Refuse to do so and calamity comes. Jesus reveals light to me gradually as I can handle it John 16:12. If I accept light as He gives it, I receive more till I have full light, Proverbs 4:18, 19. If I refuse light, it goes out and I stumble in darkness, John 12:35.

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

# A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE REVELATION SEMINARS

## SEVEN IGNORED MESSAGES

1. This passage indicates that everything in Revelation is important and absolutely nothing can be left out. Nor can anything added improve it. It was given by God and is perfect as is.
2. Though these seven letters were originally sent to seven churches in Asia, the messages apply to Christians today, as do all the other letters, or books of the Bible. 2Timothy 3:16, 17 makes this very clear. Further, these seven letters have additional application to God's church in seven eras, beginning with apostolic days and ending with the coming of Jesus.
3.
  - a. Jesus sees our works or conduct, good or bad, and properly evaluates everything at all times. Keeping this in mind has a dramatic effect upon one's life-style. A good motto is "Thou, God, seest me", Genesis 16:13.
  - b. Some teach that we do not have to do anything at all to enter the Kingdom but Jesus did not teach that. Repeatedly, He clearly states that "overcoming" is essential. However, overcoming is possible only through the blood of the Lamb, Revelation 12:11.
  - c. 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 sorrow for sin or finds new truth. No wonder Jesus stressed so forcefully the importance of listening to His Spirit
4. A zealous, on-fire, new Christian, who joyously shared his faith everywhere, was mentioned on a church board. An old-time member commented, "He will get over that". Yes, unfortunately, all too often, we do "get over that". We lose our first glowing love of Jesus and settle down to formalism. Jesus says that when this happens we have "fallen" and must "repent", Revelation 2:5. Loss of love is a fatal disease of the heart which destroys. If we lose love, we lose all.
5. They withstood them openly. Jesus commended them for this. The Nicolaitans, of verse 6, were false teachers who advocated compromise. They felt their spiritual liberty gave them freedom to practice idolatry and immorality. Jesus made it clear that He holds the church responsible to keep wolves out of the flock.
6. The "ten days" of verse 10 [using the prophetic principle of a prophetic day for a literal year, Ezekiel 4:6, were probably the ten years of unparalleled bloody persecution under the Roman ruler Diocletian from 302 A.D. to 312 A.D.
7. All, except those translated, must die the first death, Hebrews 9:27, but there

NOTICE: Because time is limited, as we look at these messages to the seven churches, we will emphasize only the key points for each era.



## EPHESUS - ERA OF APOSTLES

EPHESUS, the church of the Apostles, represents God's church of the first century. Before his death (ca 65 AD) the apostle Paul could say the gospel had been taken to the whole world. Colossians 1:5,6,23 (1728). With incredible speed the church grew to over 6 million, by the end of the first century. (pg. 6)

### 4. What reproof did Jesus give Ephesus? Revelation 2:4

Ans: They had \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ love.

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 4.

### 5. Jesus commended the Ephesus era of the church for their attitude toward false teachers. What was their attitude? Revelation 2:2

Ans: "Thou hast \_\_\_\_\_ them which \_\_\_\_\_ they are \_\_\_\_\_ and are \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 5.

## SMYRNA - ERA OF PERSECUTION

SMYRNA (100 AD. through 313 A.D.) covers a period of fearful persecution and martyrdom for the church. The Roman Empire attempted to stamp out Christianity. Only God knows how many were decapitated, burned, fed to lions and slain by the sword. The church lived so close to Jesus He gave them no reproof!

### 6. What encouragement did Jesus give to Smyrna? Revelation 2:10



Ans: " \_\_\_\_\_ none of these things which thou shalt suffer...  
be thou \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_ and I will give  
thee \_\_\_\_\_."

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 6.

#### 7. What was promised to the overcomer in Smyrna? Revelation 211

Ans: "He that \_\_\_\_\_ shall not be \_\_\_\_\_  
of the \_\_\_\_\_ death".

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 7.

### PERGAMOS - ERA OF COMPROMISE

PERGAMOS (313 through 538 AD) covers the era of state supported religion and compromise. Christianity had grown so rapidly that there were places where Christians were in the majority. The Roman Emperor, Constantine, , professed conversion and had his entire army baptized as Christians.

Satan, unable to destroy the church through -persecution, corrupted it by popularity, compromise and worldly alliance. Pagan beliefs and practices corrupted the church. Pergamos was called Satan's seat (v, 13) because it was the headquarters of Rome's heathen religion. The Lord rebuked the church of this era for allowing false teaching to flourish.

#### 8. The doctrines of a man and a group were mentioned. What are their names? Revelation 2:14, 15

Ans: a. Man \_\_\_\_\_

Ans: b. Group \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 8.

### THYATIRA - ERA OF APOSTACY

THYATIRA (538 through the 1400's AD) is the longest period of all the seven churches. This period, sometimes called the "Dark Ages," was a time of fearful apostasy.

#### 9. The Lord rebuked the church of this era for opening its doors to an evil woman who corrupted it. What was this woman called? Revelation 2:20

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_

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## A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE REVELATION SEMINARS

### THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

CHURCH	APPROXIMATE DATE	MEANING OF NAME	MAIN FEATURE OF TIME PERIOD	NAME GIVEN TO JESUS	COMMENDATION	REPROOF	COUNSEL	REWARD PROMISED OVERCOMER
EPHESUS	31 to about 100 AD	First or desirable	Era of waning love	He that hath the 7 stars in His right hand. He who walketh in the midst of 7 golden candle-sticks	Patience Hate deeds of false teachers Did not faint or give up	Left your first love	Repent -- do again your 1st works	Eat of Tree of Life
SMYRNA	100 to about 325 AD	Myrrh or sweet fragrance	Persecution Suffering Martyrdom	The first & last. He who was dead but now lives	Rich in faith & good works in spite of tribulation & hypocrites	None	Be faithful unto death	Receive crown of life. Not be hurt of second death
PERGAMOS	325 to about 538	Height or power or elevation by marriage	State Religion Compromise	He which hath the sharp sword with two edges	Held firm to Jesus' name and have not denied the faith	Tolerance of Nicolaitanes Balaamism Compromise Idolatry & Immorality	Repent	Receive hidden manna White Stone New name
THYATIRA	538 to about 1500	Sweet savor of labor. Sacrifice of contrition	Dark Ages Apostasy	Son of God	For love, faith, patience & good works	Tolerance of Jezebel, idolatry, immorality	Hold fast what you already have	Power over nations Morning Star
SARDIS	1500 to about 1750	Those escaping or that which remains	Reform	He that hath the 7 Spirits of God & the 7 stars	A few are not defiled	Dead works	Watch, strengthen what remains. Hold fast & repent	White Raiment Keep name in Book of Life
PHILADELPHIA	1750 to about 1850	Brotherly love	Revival Gospel Spread	He that is holy & true that hath key of David & that openeth & none shutteth & that shutteth & none openeth	Kept the Word and not denied Jesus	None	Hold fast to the faith	Pillar in temple. Keep from hour of temptation. Have name of God
LAODICEA	1850 till Jesus' Coming	Judging the people or a just people	Modern Christendom The church today	The Amen--The faithful & true witness, the beginning of the creation of God	None	Lukewarm Spiritually poor, blind & naked	Secure: gold tried in fire, white raiment, eyesalve. Be zealous & repent	Sit with Christ on His throne and eat with Him



WORKS BY LOVE, Galatians 5:6; James 2:5 and Job 23:10.

**Ans: b.** 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. Zechariah 3:1-5. And it is retained only by faith in Jesus. Romans 1:17.

**Ans: c.** EYESALVE means

- (1) DISCERNMENT TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD. Psalm 119:18; I John 2:20, 27.
- (2) HOLY SPIRIT TO HELP US SEE OUR TRUE CONDITION AND MAKE PROPER CHOICES. John 14:26; Ephesians 1:17-19.

**19. What must I do to be certain that the precious gold,- white raiment and eyesalve are mine? Revelation 3:20**

**Ans:** Open wide the \_\_\_\_\_ and let Jesus enter my \_\_\_\_\_

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

THE SPECIAL WORDS OF JESUS TO HIS CHURCH through seven eras end on a sombre note. 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. SOME COUNSEL WILL BE SHOCKING and STARTLING, but since it is HIS counsel I WANT IT ANYWAY. Don't you?



**Jesus offers us the pure robe of His righteousness, that we may be clothed. Read Rev. 3:18-20**

**Are you willing to accept His robe of righteousness?**

**Ans:** \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 9.

**10. What solemn warning did God give to this symbolic Jezebel and all who followed her?. Revelation 2:22, 23**

**Ans: a** "I will cast them... into great \_\_\_\_\_".

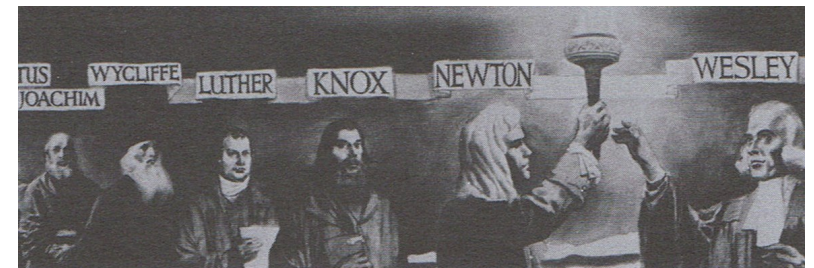
**Ans: b.** "I will \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_".

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 10.

**11. Whom do you think the "rest" are in Thyatira, who opposed the Spiritual corruption of time period? Revelation 2:24**

**Ans:** \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 11.



## SARDIS - ERA OF REFORMATION

SARDIS (1500's through mid 1700's A.D.) covers the crucial period of reformation when Spirit filled men shook the world by testing Christian beliefs by God's Word.

Some of these great men of God founded church denominations, still in existence today. But, alas, when they died, their followers ceased searching for truth, compromised what they already possessed and went backward with astounding rapidity.

**12. What did Jesus say was about to happen to the spiritual experience of the church of this era? Revelation 3:2**

**Ans:** It was about to \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 12.

NOTE: This solemn lesson is for us today. Keep pursuing truth and follow it

as you find it and blessings will come. Refuse to do so, and calamity comes. Jesus reveals light to me gradually, as I can handle it John 16:12. If I accept light as He gives it I receive more, till I have full light, Proverbs 4:18, 19. If I refuse light, it goes out and I stumble in darkness, John 12:35.

Ans: "Thou hast a name that thou and art

NOTE: See Exhibit #2, Point 13.

## PHILADELPHIA - ERA OF REVIVAL & MISSION

PHILADELPHIA (mid 1700's to mid 1800's A.D.) is the era of the birth and expansion of foreign missions and the American and British Bible Societies. Missionaries encircled the world.

Great revival preachers like Whitefield and the Wesleys helped spark a global revival. The greatest revival since Pentecost was fuelled by the study of the books of Daniel and Revelation.

The name "Philadelphia" or "brotherly love" is fitting. As Jesus looked at His church of this era He offered no reproof.

### 14. This church had difficulties, however, with the same group as did the church at Smyrna. What was the group called? Revelation. 2:9; 3:9

Ans: The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Notice that the people of Satan's synagogue (church) were here pretending to be faithful, true members of God's church and did not reveal their true colours. These are the most dangerous emissaries of the devil, because they appear so righteous and sweet and loving. Jesus calls them wolves in sheep's clothing, Matthew 7:15. We can expect the devil's representatives to be devious and deceitful. After all, the devil is the father of lies, John 8:44. If we stay close to Jesus and check all teachings by His Word, we will not be deceived, Isaiah 8:20; 30:21

### 15. In Revelation 3:7, 8, God talks to Philadelphia about something opening and shutting. What was It?

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The door mentioned here is the door into the Most Holy Place of Heaven's Sanctuary. The door into the Most Holy Place was opened in Heaven by Jesus during this time period, and no man can shut it The amazing significance of this event will be studied in detail in two other lessons in this Seminar. Exciting events began to transpire in Heaven when this door opened. Watch for these coming lessons.

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Jesus began the last phase of His heavenly ministry in the Most Holy Place

## LAODICEA - CHRISTIANITY TODAY

LAODICEA (mid 1800's until Jesus comes). The heart beats faster as we study about the church of our day. These words Ln are direct council and reproof to Christians living now. Jesus knows our spiritual problems and needs. He offers solutions and assistance.

### 16. What does Jesus say our problems are today? Revelation 3:15-17

Ans: a. Verse 16 - We are \_\_\_\_\_

Ans: b. Verse 17 - We feel that spiritually we are \_\_\_\_\_ and in need of \_\_\_\_\_ when truly we are spiritually \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: This condition is alarming. Nothing is worse than for me to think I am in harmony with God's will when, instead, I am desperately in need of repentance (verse 19). Many, seemingly devout people, will be lost in the final judgment for the same reason. See Matthew 7:21-23. It is bad enough to be in trouble. It is worse yet to be in trouble and not know it.

### 17. What three things does Jesus counsel me to obtain in order for me to see myself as I really am, so I may bring my life into harmony with Him? Revelation 3:18

Ans: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (a precious metal).

Ans: 2. White \_\_\_\_\_ (clothing).

Ans: 3. \_\_\_\_\_ (medicine).

### 18. What Is the meaning of gold, white raiment and eyesalve?

Ans: a. GOLD means the true riches of Heaven, which are manifested in a golden character, which will stand up under the fire of persecution and adversity. It includes: GOD'S WORD, Psalm 19:7-10 and FAITH WHICH