

# LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

## Recap



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# EPHESUS

**Then:** A new church on fire, yet as time progressed while facing persecution, they grew tired and abandoned their first love.

**Now:** Refocusing requires us to go back and find what gave us incentive to initially pursue Christ. What was it that motivated us to chase after God and stand strong for Him? We must return to that place.

*Rev. 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*



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# SMYRNA

**Then:** The persecution from Rome and its evil government was intense and caused them to be poverty stricken.

**Now:** Suffering for the cause of Christ makes us akin to His sufferings and gives us a place with Him. We must not get caught up in what we do not have, but rather serve God with all that we have.

*Rev. 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*



# PERGAMOS

**Then:** The Worldly Church! Dwelled in Satan's seat! This was the true birth of Catholicism and the Nicolaitans' doctrine of man in the middle! The doctrine of Baalam, which was the intermingling of false god worshippers and casting a stumbling block before God's people, was prevalent in this fellowship.

**Now:** These ancient practices are presently destroying our churches today. We must remove the idols and all the catholic garments from God's house. These are all stumbling blocks for the members and leaders in the church.

*Rev. 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*



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# THYATIRA

**Then:** The compromising church! The church of the dark ages, which Jezebel led into compromise with the world. There was no distinction between the clean and unclean. It all looked the same.

**Now:** Women must keep their rightful place in ministries. They must not teach men, but rather teach and admonish women when they are qualified, according to sound doctrine. God's church must be in order, to represent Him in the earth.

*Rev. 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.*



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## SARDIS

**Then:** The church was dead and only spoke of the way it used to be. How God used to move among them, but now they only have memories.

**Now:** God wants us to recognize that we are dead and fix those things that remain. We must get rid of those things that are killing the church and replace them with things that edify and bless the church.

*Rev. 3:2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.*



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# PHILADELPHIA

**Then:** The faithful church. This was the time of great revival of the people and the Word went forth with power. Because of Christ's open door, God's power was able to use this church to fight against the hypocrites of that time.

**Now:** We must rely solely on God's power in our time as well. Christ's open door allows us to operate in the spirit realm to fix natural things. His power gives us spiritual authority of spiritual issues that manifest in the natural.

*Rev. 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.*

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# LAODICEA

**Then:** Prosperous but lukewarm. More concerned with getting things and self-sufficiency than Christ's purpose for them.

**Now:** Although, we may have good things, we must never forget God's purpose for us. Nothing that we have is more important than what He wants for us. For the cause of Christ we may have to turn down certain progressions and riches of this world. But it's better to do without naturally and have spiritually than to have naturally and do without spiritually.

*Rev. 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

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These churches were judged by Christ to show us the conditions of the churches today. What we see in these churches appear in all churches and Christ's interactions with each church signifies that He never gives up on His church body. We are the body of Christ and if Christ is life, then His body is alive! Though He may rebuke and admonish, He does not end His concept of having an earthly church body to operate through. When He ascended on high, He left the church to represent Him in the earth.

The body of Christ literally means that He is the head and we are His body in the earth. We move through Him and by Him. He operates through us and gets His will accomplished through us. Though many may have been hurt by a church, a church leader, or someone that misused the Word of God, they must forgive and accept the fact that the church is not going away because of failure or error. Look at it this way: Did God throw us away when we failed and made mistakes? When we were in error, did not the grace of God bring us to our senses? Even though we may have hurt others or ourselves, God never gave up on us. Christ will never give up on His church because it's made up of people. Although, the people that lead it and fill it are not perfect and may err, Christ still loves His church and will continue to correct, restore, and revive His churches in the earth!

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*Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

*Eph. 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

*Eph. 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

*Eph. 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*

*Eph. 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*

*Eph. 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.*

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