

REVELATION Chapter 2

Teacher: John M. Brown, Olive Hill Church of Christ, Sunday Bible Class, June 2012

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA: *Remember it is the Lord giving the assessment of each church – He walks among the churches (1:12-13, 19), ruling, overseeing, and judging His people.*

I. THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS, 2:1-7 “**UNLOVING**”

A. **COMMENDATION:**

1. Works, labour, patience (perseverance – Acts 19:9; 23-41).
2. Can't bear them which are evil; tried them which say they are apostles (1 John 4:1).
3. Laboured and not fainted (Galatians 6:9).
4. Hate the deeds of the Nicolaitanes (who promoted moral laxity and engaged in various other heathen practices – remember that Paul had warned the Ephesian elders of grievous wolves entering among them, Acts 20:28-31)

B. **CONDEMNATION:** “left thy first love” (*compare Luke 14:26-27*)

C. Their course of action: **REMEMBER & REPENT**

D. **WARNING:** If they do not, the Lord will come in judgment against them: “remove thy candlestick out of his place”

E. **PROMISE:** Overcomers will eat of the tree of life (Ezekiel 31; Revelation 22:2, 14)

II. THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA, 2:8-11 “**SPIRITUALLY RICH**”

A. **COMMENDATION:** works, tribulation, poverty

B. **CONDMENATION:** there is none!

C. Blasphemy of some:

1. They say they were Jews, but not – note: the true Israel of God today is the Lord's church! (see John 8:41-47; Romans 2:28-29; 9:6-8; Galatians 6:16).
2. They are of the synagogue of Satan (when the Jews rejected Christ, they rejected God, and their father became Satan; see Luke 10:16; John 13:20; 12:48-50; 8:41-47).

D. They are about to suffer (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7, 2:21 ff).

E. They shall have tribulation **ten days** (note the number: “full and complete period”).

1. Be faithful unto death (John 16:2).
2. Receive the crown of life (2 Timothy 4:8).

F. **PROMISE:** overcomers will not be hurt of the second death (Revelation 20:5-6, 14).

III. THE CHURCH IN PERGAMOS, 2:12-17 **“TOLERATING FALSE DOCTRINE”**

A. **COMMENDATION:**

1. Works.
2. Dwell where Satan's seat is (Pergamos a center of idolatry).
3. Hold fast Christ's name.
4. Have not denied Christ's name (even when Antipas was martyred in Pergamos).

B. **CONDEMNATION:**

1. Some hold the doctrine of Balaam (Numbers 22-23, 31).
Balaam hired himself out as a prophet: “Balaam” represents deceit and covetousness, doing religious works for personal gain, and involves a stumblingblock, idolatry, and fornication.
2. Some hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which the Lord hates (see 2:6).

C. **MESSAGE:** *Repent, or the Lord will come unto thee* (Galatians 5:9), and fight against them.

1. Note: though only some held these false doctrines, the Lord calls upon the whole church to repent; Why? Because a little leaven leavens the whole lump (Galatians 5:9), and left unchecked these false doctrines would grown into full-blown apostasy.
2. We must always be concerned about doctrine! 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 John 1:5-7; 2 John 9-11; 2 Peter 2:1-3

D. **PROMISE:**

1. Overcomers will eat of the hidden manna (see John 6:32-33, 35, 40, 48-51, 53, 58).
2. Overcomers will receive a white stone with a new name written (Isaiah 56:1-6; 62:1-2).

IV. THE CHURCH IN THYATIRA, 2:18-29 **“SLIPPING INTO IDOLATRY”**

A. **COMMENDATION:** works, charity, service, faith, patience, last works

B. **CONDEMNATION:** tolerate that woman Jezebel.

1. Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, married Ahab, 7th king of the northern kingdom, and led him into the worship of Baal; she slew the prophets of God and introduced Baal worship into the nation (see 1 Kings 16:31; 18:4, 13, 18-21; 19:1-2; 21:25-26; 2 Kings 9:22).
2. The name is used symbolically here: *there is apparently and woman in the congregation at Thyatira who is leading saints in the path of sin and false religion.*
3. Her outcome: verses 22-23

C. **PROMISE:** Overcomers will rule over the nations (see 1:6) and will receive the morning star (22:16 – cf. 1 John 5:12-13; 2 John 9).