

The 7 Churches – Part 3

8/3/24

- Today – Opportunity to give a Bible study
 - Today – Continuing with a 7-part series – about the 7 churches in Revelation 2 & 3
 - Title – The 7 Churches – Part 3
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- Ephesus is mentioned in the Bible much more than the other churches
 - Ephesus 17 times
 - Smyrna 2 times – (both times in Revelation)
 - Pergamos 2 times – (both times in Revelation)
 - Thyatira 4 times – (3 times in Revelation)
 - Sardis 3 times – (all times in Revelation)
 - Philadelphia 2 times – (both times in Revelation)
 - Laodicea 6 times – (1 time in Revelation)
 - Laodiceans 2 times – (1 time in Revelation)
- Historical reminder

Holman Bible Dictionary (page 115) – “Located 15 miles inland . . . Pergamum contained the first temple in Asia dedicated to a Roman Emperor, Augustus, in 29 B.C . . . The larger altar area [for Zeus] may be that referred to by John as the ‘throne of Satan’.”

1. Characteristics – praise and correction

Rev. 2:12 these things says He, who has the sharp two-edged sword
13 praise

- I know your works
- I know where you dwell – (the circumstances of your life)
– where Satan’s throne is – where Satan dwells

Many sources – “The city of Pergamos was one of the most famous places in the Roman world. In addition to spas, hospitals and a healing center there, the city boasted an enormous altar to the god Zeus.”

13 continued praise

- You hold fast to My name and did not deny My faith –
even
in the days of in which Antipas was My faithful
martyr who was killed among you (where Satan

dwells)

· The terms “martyr” and ‘martyrs’ = mentioned only 3 times in Bible

Acts 22:20 when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I was standing by
 consenting to his death and guarding his clothes of those who were
 killing him

An unnamed source: “The sheer physical energy required to stone a person to death would be hot work, at any time of the year. It would be customary for all the men doing the stoning to throw off their cloaks, and a young person charged with looking after them until the job was done. . . And Luke points out [in Acts 8:1] that, by looking after the garments, Saul was ‘consenting’ to the death.”

Rev. 2:13 Antipas
Rev. 17:6 drunk with the blood of the saints & with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus
Rev. 5:6 stood a Lamb as though it had been slain
 9, 12 You are worthy for You were slain – Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Rev. 6:9 under the altar – souls of those who had been slain for the word of God
Rev. 13:8 the Book of Life of the Lamb – slain from the foundation of the world
Rev. 20:4 beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God

Rev. 2:14-15 correction – but I have a few things against you
 · Some there (not all) – those who hold doctrine of Balaam –
 who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before
 the children of Israel
 · Ate things sacrificed to idols
 Acts 15:20 – abstain from things polluted by idols
 1 Cor. 8:1-13 – don’t wound a weak brother
 1 Cor. 10:25-33 – eating items sold in meat market?
 · Committed sexual immorality
 · “You also have those [but not all] who hold the doctrine of
 the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate”

16 some advice – repent

From renner.org: “The name ‘Nicolaitans’ is derived from the Greek word ‘nikolaos’ – a compound of the words ‘nikos’ and ‘laos.’ The word ‘nikos’ is the Greek word that means to conquer or to subdue. The word ‘laos’ is the Greek work for the people. . . When these two words are compounded into one, they form the name ‘Nicholas’ – which literally means ‘one who conquers and subdues the people.’ It seems to suggest that the Nicolaitans were somehow conquering and subduing the people.”

2. Future reward – (future blessing)

Rev. 2:17 listen to the message – to him who overcomes = (3 blessings mentioned)
 · I will give some of the hidden manna
 · I will give him a white stone – with a new name on it