

The 7 Churches – Part 5

9/7/24

- 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 5
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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 1233) – “[Sardis] was the capital of the province of Lydia and was located in the Hermus River valley northeast of Ephesus. An impressive acropolis overlooks the site. One of the major features there in New Testament times was a temple to Artemis, the goddess of love and fertility.”

Holman Bible Dictionary (page 115) – “The greatest city in Lydia, Sardis is remembered as the first municipality to mint coins of silver and gold . . . The city fell to the Persian armies of Cyrus in 549 B.C. and to the Romans in 188 B.C. A tremendous earthquake in A.D. 17 struck Sardis, a blow from which it was never fully able to recover.”

In a Wednesday-night Bible study on July 10, I gave a list describing the contrast between praise and rebuke among the 7 congregations. My source for that list mentioned that Sardis only had rebuke. I now believe that the list was wrong about Sardis. Following is an updated list – (1) changing the word “rebuke” to “correction” and (2) with a more positive description of Sardis.

Ephesus	both praise & correction
Smyrna	only praise & encouragement
Pergamos	both praise & correction
Thyatira	both praise & correction
Sardis	both praise & correction
Philadelphia	only praise & encouragement
Laodicea	only correction

1. Characteristics – praise and correction

Rev. 3:1	these things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars
1	correction – I know your works
	· You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead
2	advice
	· Be watchful & strengthen the things that remain
	correction
	· I have not found your works perfect before God
3	reminder of repentance
	· Remember how you received and heard
	· Hold fast and repent
	· Watch, because you don't know in what hour I come
Matt. 25:5	while the groom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept
Matt. 26:40	the Son of God found them sleeping – “could you not watch with Me for one hour?”
41	watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation
43	He found them sleeping again, for their eyes were heavy
Col. 3:1	seek those things which are above – where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God
1 John 3:1	we are called the children of God
2	we shall be like Him
3	everyone one who has this hope purifies himself – just as God is pure

· Back to Revelation 3

Rev. 3:4	praise
	· You have a few names in Sardis who have not defiled their garments, and they shall walk with me in white (because they are worthy)

2. Future reward – (future blessing)

Rev. 3:5	he who overcomes = (3 blessings)
	· “He shall be clothed in white garments”
	· “I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life”
	· “I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels”