

## The 7 Churches – Part 6

9/21/24

- 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 6

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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) – “Following the Hermus River inland from Sardis, one reaches *Philadelphia*, the name commemorating the brotherly love between Attalus Philadelphus and Eumenes. Founded during the second century B.C, the city was set amidst vast vineyards and led in the worship of Dionysius. The terrible earthquake of A.D. 17 was followed by dangerous tremors for the next 20 years, each one debilitating the city further. The apostle John’s reference to giving of a ‘new name’ (Rev. 3:12) may be a wordplay on the proposed dedication of the city as ‘Neo-Caesarea’ in honor of aid Tiberius sent.”

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Smyrna (2nd) and Philadelphia (6th)	only praise & encouragement
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### 1. Characteristics – praise and encouragement

Rev. 3:7 “these things says He who is holy, He who is true, [paraphrasing Isaiah 22:22] ‘He who has the key of David, He who opens and one shuts, and shuts and no one open’ ”

8 praise

- I know your works
- I have set before you an open door – no one can shut it
- You have a little strength – you have kept My word and have not denied My name

Rev. 2:9 reminder – Smyrna praise

	·	I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not – but are of the synagogue of Satan
10	reminder – Smyrna warning	
	·	Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested – & you will have tribulation for 10 days
Luke 4:16-27 28-30		the Son of God taught in the synagogue the people were filled with wrath – threw Him out of the city – they intended to throw Him over a cliff – but He escaped
Luke 13:14		the ruler of the synagogue answered Him with indignation, because He healed on the Sabbath day
John 9:22		the parents of the blind man feared the Jews – because the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue
John 12:37 42-43		although He had done so many signs before them – did not believe in Him nevertheless, even among the rulers, many believed in Him – but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess Him – lest they should be put out of the synagogue – because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God
John 16:2		they will put you out of the synagogue – yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service
2 Cor. 11:13-15		claiming to be – apostles of Christ
Rev. 3:9	promise	
	·	I will make the synagogue of Satan (who say they are Jews, but are not – but lie) to come and worship before your feet – and to know that I have loved you
10	promise	
	·	because you have kept My command to persevere, I will also keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world (to test those who dwell on the earth)
11	advice	
	·	Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown
2.	Future reward – (future blessings)	
Rev. 3:12	he who overcomes = (3 blessings)	
	·	“I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God” – “he shall go out no more”
	·	“I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem (which comes down out of heaven from My God)”
	·	“And I will write on him My new name”
13	he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches	