

THE 7 CHURCHES OF ASIA

EPHESUS

“THE CHURCH THAT FELL OUT OF LOVE”

REV. 2.1-8

- 7 good qualities
- 1 bad quality (one too many).
- Their values and motives had become misplaced.
- Lesson: Correct actions are worthless if our motives are not pure and genuine.
- The Lord looks not only at what we do but to our intent and motives as well. (Hebrews 4.12-13).

SMYRNA

“THE PERSECUTED AND IMPOVERISHED CHURCH”

REV. 2.8-11

- Christians faced tribulation, even to the point of martyrdom.
- They had nothing materially, yet the Lord calls them wealthy.
- **Question**: Is serving Christ and the salvation He offers worth whatever pain and suffering this life may bring?

PERGAMUM

“FAITHFUL IN PERSECUTION BUT TOLERATED EVIL”

REV. 2.12-17

- Christians in Pergamos faced tribulation and stood for the truth against her foes--- even after Antipas was martyred.
- However, they tolerated false teachers within their ranks.
- The church was known as the “compromising church.”

THYATIRA

“FAITHFUL IN MANY WAYS BUT TOLERATED FALSE
TEACHING AND SIN”

REV. 2.18-29

- The church had many good qualities.
- However, one fault can destroy much good.
- They were rebuked because they tolerated a false teacher in their midst---
”Jezebel.”
- “She” is still at work today:
 - People who don’t believe in absolutes.
 - “Situation ethics”
 - Give a little---don’t be so dogmatic about things, etc.

SARDIS

“THE DEAD CHURCH”

REV. 3.1-6

- The church with a good reputation before men---but the Lord said that they were dead!”
- It doesn't overly matter what men think about us, but it matters greatly what Jesus thinks about us!
- A church filled with members who love worldly pleasures is a church that is dead, regardless of its reputation.

PHILADELPHIA

“THE FAITHFUL CHURCH”

REV. 3.7-13

- The church stood fast in the Lord despite opposition.
- They used what they had (despite their small size) therefore the Lord gave them more opportunities to be of service to Him. (Open Doors)

LAODICEA

“THE LUKEWARM CHURCH”

REV. 3.14-22

- Apathy and indifference is not accepted by the Lord!
- Their door had closed but Jesus said that He is still knocking and it is up to them to open it.
- They could not (or would not) see themselves for what they really were.
 - Apathetic
 - Complacent
 - Going through the motions
 - Prideful
 - Wealthy (“we have need of nothing”)
- They needed to look into the mirror for self-examination.