

Revelation 2

Message to Ephesus

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

² 'I know your deeds and your labour and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people, and you have put those who call themselves apostles to the test, and they are not, and you found them to be false; ³ and you have perseverance and have endured on account of My name, and have not become weary.

⁴ But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. ⁶ But you have this, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will grant to eat from the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'

Message to Smyrna

⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:

⁹ 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the slander by those who say they are Jews, and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'

Message to Pergamum

¹² "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:

¹³ 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold firmly to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality.

¹⁵ So you too, have some who in the same way hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will wage war against them with the sword of My mouth. ¹⁷ The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows except the one who receives it.

Message to Thyatira

¹⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and feet like burnished bronze, says this:¹⁹ ‘I know your deeds, and your love and faith, and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. ²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her sexual immorality.

²² Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. ²³ And I will kill her children with plague, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. ²⁴ But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you. ²⁵ Nevertheless what you have, hold firmly until I come.

²⁶ The one who overcomes, and the one who keeps My deeds until the end, I will give him authority over the nations; ²⁷ and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are shattered, as I also have received authority from My Father; ²⁸ and I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God’s character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. John is writing to the spirit of the church at Ephesus.
2. He gives an insight into where his message is coming from.
3. He is the one who walks amongst the golden lampstands and holds the seven stars in His right hand. John is talking about Jesus.
4. John is saying Jesus knows your deeds, that’s the things you do.
5. God is all seeing, all knowing. Why would He not know what we do?
6. As a Christian you don’t get caught but you catch yourself through the internal spirit witness.
7. Jesus commends the Ephesian church regarding what they do as kingdom subjects, their deeds, their toil and their perseverance.
8. The fact that they refuse to tolerate evil working in men, believers, all this is good!
9. They have even endured for His name sake.
10. You even put false apostles to the test, but there is a ‘but’ coming.
11. He says ‘you have not grown weary’, got frustrated, lost ground and given up, in all this you have been faithful.

12. But the 'but' is that you have left or lost your first love.
13. What is the first love?
14. How do you get your first love back?
15. Do what you did in the beginning of your journey.
16. Jesus says 'if you, as the church at Ephesus, don't repent, I will remove your lampstand' that is take your light away so you are dark, without light, die and lose your spirit light.
17. Repent is to stop saying don't tell me what not to do God. To align is to agree with what God says to do.
18. But you do hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, that is what they practice.
19. To truly hear is for your inner ear to hear.
20. The spirit says, it means the Holy Spirit says.
21. What is it to be an overcomer?
22. To overcome is to resist the temptation to be distracted from God's righteous way, to resist the temptation from the tree of uncertainty.
23. The reward for faithfulness is access to the tree of life which is in the King's garden/paradise.
24. Now John speaks to the church at Smyrna, he identifies Jesus as being the first and the last, He who was dead but came back to life.
25. The Lord knows all the hardships they suffer. The tribulations, means great trouble and poverty, to be without basic provision.
26. He informs them that they are actually rich, how sad it is to be rich and yet not know you are rich, so that you live as a poor man. Many Christians have a frugal spirit.
27. He says I know all your enemies, all those that accuse you, as if they were your brothers.
28. In fact these enemies are of the synagogue of satan, you know them by their fruit.
29. He warns them that some of them are about to suffer hardship and imprisonment, he encourages them not to be fearful.
30. Testing and tribulation is sometimes necessary, there are things that you can only learn in a desert.
31. Be faithful and receive your reward, is possible by grace. Your reward is the crown of life.
32. To have the ear, is to have an inner spirit ear, open to the Holy Spirit.
33. Overcoming is only possible by grace alone.
34. The second death is after the resurrection of the dead, just before judgement.
35. John writes to Pergamon, he identifies Jesus Christ as the one with the sharp two edged sword that is His word.
36. This church is located at the place where evil is prominent.
37. Despite this, this church upholds His name, despite the onslaught of evil and attack on the people, even for some to death.
38. But there is a but, some have given themselves to false teachings, cult truths which are lies, given themselves to wrong practice in worship.
39. Some have been seduced by the teachings of the Nicolaitans.
40. John instructs them to repent quickly, that is to align themselves to the ways of God, or they will be judged.
41. When Jesus speaks words, no-one and nothing can stop it happening.
42. Ears to hear, is to open up ones heart to God.

43. The hidden man is the eternal provision.
44. The white stone is the eternal acknowledgement as a child belonging to God, that sits over the heart of God.
45. In Exodus the priest had twelve stones sewn into his garment over his heart with the names of the tribes of Israel. Overcomers will get their own stone with a new name written on the stone.
46. John writes to Thyratira, Jesus Christ is the Son of God, His eyes can see and His feet can stand.
47. John commends them on all that they are faithful in, he says what they are doing now is even better than what they did before.
48. He affirms their hatred to Jezebel and her ways, her teachings lead people astray.
49. They have learnt to practice wrong doings as they follow her ways.
50. She does not want to repent and give herself to God's ways, she still wants to uphold her position of 'don't tell me what to do'.
51. She is going to suffer sickness along with all those who follow her ways.
52. Unless she repents, she and all of hers will be killed by Me.
53. God declares He is the one who searches hearts and minds, who rewards and brings retribution when He returns at the judgement.
54. There are many who have not gone astray.
55. What are the deep things of satan? The wicked ways of practicing evil.
56. He instructs them to stay committed to what they have been called to.
57. The promise of the ruling over the nations in the eternal because of their faithfulness to God and His ways.
58. To rule as a rod is to have great authority, Jesus Christ has been given this authority by God the Father.
59. The morning star is the Holy Spirit's internal presence.
60. Ear to hear is the Spirit's instructions to the inner ear.