

The Seven (7) Churches as recorded in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3



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CONVENER, DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

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INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present to us an In-depth Research and Studies of the Seven (7) Churches as recorded in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3.

In these two (2) Chapters; Jesus Christ wrote Letters to seven (7) Churches.

The Churches are as listed below:

1. The Church in Ephesus

2. The Church in Smyrna

3. The Church in Pergamos

4. The Church in Thyatira

5. The Church in Sardis

6. The Church in Philadelphia

7. The Church in Laodicea

... Interesting, what we found as being discussed there as happening in these seven (7) Churches are replica of the various happening in the various Churches even as we have it as at today.

Thank You so much for your kind attention!

1. THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS

The first Letter was addressed to the Church at Ephesus, which was an Asian Marketplace and Banking nerve centre of the world then because it had a great safe in the temple of Diana.

The temple of Diana was one of the seven (7) Wonders of the Ancient world having 20 pillars each of 60 feet high, 36 of which were gold-plated.

The city of Ephesus was very Religious with Diana as the matron goddess of prostitutes.

In that temple were devoted prostitutes who were ready to minister to anybody through fornication.

Also any criminal who found his/her way into that temple was deemed free.

In this city was a strong and vibrant Church in which Paul devoted most of his time - Timothy was her first Bishop with eminent supporters like Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos and John.

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The Church here however lacked what should have given meaning to their work – LOVE!

According to 1 Corinthians 13:13, any Good Deeds done outside of Love erodes its Goodness and renders the deeds as mere Unprofitable.

The question that you need to urgently ask yourself now is: What is the basis of your work in the Church of God?

The truth of the matter is that any Service rendered to God's Kingdom outside your Genuine Love for the Master is Unprofitable.

If there is Love in your heart, you will be motivated to express it in your act of Goodness and it will stir up the fire in you.

The Lord is longing for a return to how things used to be in your Christian Walk when you first gave your Life to Him – Jeremiah 2:25.

We also learnt that having an ear is different from hearing with it.

This is Huge: You can only prove that you have a hearing ear if you have an obedient heart and ready to comply with instructions

... That is paying heeds to what the Holy Spirit is saying.

Here, we can see that God can take care of the Needs of His Servants and their Ministries without resource to any man because you are in His Hands – He knows and monitors all your movements.

God knew that the Church at Ephesus hated what He hated.

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This is what should stand you out as believers of Jesus Christ – your ability to hate what Jesus Christ hates and to love what Jesus Christ loves.

The Church in Ephesus therefore sounds as something practically Good for us as Christians to be easily adaptable to if we can yield to the warnings highlighted here.

Thank You so much for your kind attention!

2. THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA

The Church in Smyrna is one of the Churches that passed God's Assessment.

A look at the history of Smyrna shows that it was first founded, destroyed and later rebuilt again.

The newly rebuilt City of Smyrna was extremely beautiful and so referred to as the "Ornament", "Crown" or "Flower" of Asia.

... With one of its streets called "Street of Gold".

It proudly harboured a Stadium, Public Library and a Home of Music.

Several idols like Zeus, Apollo and Aphrodite had their temples resident there.

Smyrna is therefore what can be referred to as "A Trading City" that was full of beehive of activities.

In His letter to the Church in Smyrna, the Lord introduced Himself as the One who was dead but now Alive.

This speaks volume for any Citizen of Smyrna as it was a City destroyed and after three hundred (300) years, bounced back formidably to the extent of being the envy of others in Asia.

This simply implies that you too can bounce back from your backslidden life and overtake those ahead of you.

You should not therefore accept defeat even if the devil has knocked you down now. You are just down but not out – read Micah 7:8.

The Power to bounce back is in Jesus Christ and its available to as many that can desire it.

Simeon Peter fell to a low ebb of denying Jesus Christ thrice (3ce) but he later keyed into this Grace and bounced back.

The poser to you out there is: Are u a fallen Soldier of the cross?

The Good News is that: Do not stay down no matter how badly you have fallen – you are definitely bouncing back ... so arise to your feet in the Strength of Jesus Christ.

Therefore take up your Rightful Place now as the Lord is Powerfully right behind of you to keep you standing.

To keep standing however; you need to do as follows:

1. You need to watch against the wind of "False Doctrines".
2. You need to be well grounded and not half-baked in the Knowledge and Understanding of the Word of God.
3. You need to be Diligent and Watchful in your Service to God as this will Strengthen anything that is pulling you back (Revelation 3:2).
4. You need to ensure that your Works satisfy Heaven's Requirement or else you will be shocked on Judgement Day.

The Lord told them (Church in Smyrna) in Revelation 2:9; that He was aware of their Poverty but they were rich – impoverished for Ignorance but they were indeed rich.

The above statement could also be assumed to be due to semantics as God's definition of Wealth is quite different from human's definition.

... It is possible to be Materially Impoverished yet Spiritually Rich.

What makes you rich to God is your ability despite your Physical limitations and disabilities to make others rich thereby enlarging the Kingdom of God.

Besides all these, it is easier for those Impoverished to humble themselves before God and trust in Him fully and absolutely than rich people who believe in their riches.

Thank You so much for your kind attention!



3. THE CHURCH IN PERGAMOS

In His letter to the Church in Pergamos, the Lord revealed one interesting thing about them.

Pergamos is the Greatest City in Asia Minor and her Capital.

The Lord called it the “Seat of satan” because it was a great Religious Centre steeped in idol worship.

It was recorded that the Church stood firm for Jesus Christ in the face of strong and widespread idolatry.

We learnt therefore from here that as believers, we are not to run from Forces of Darkness (John 1:5).

God however fights for those who stand firm on His Name as you cannot withstand the devil with your Strength. - Stand on Holiness and His Word.

Aside this, the Church in Pergamos was so resolute in their Faith and prepared to laid down their lives for it.

To this end, Antipas was martyred, yet they held on.

Therefore as true believers in Jesus Christ, you should not be a coward even in the face of Persecution.

In Greek, the word “Martyr” means to witness and its one readiness to die in the early Church.

So they were not afraid of anybody for the sake of their lives.

A lot of us cannot witness today and so kept closed lips so that they won't be tagged "Religious Fanatics"

However in commending the Church at Pergamos in Revelation 2: 12-17; the Lord pointed out some of their weakness.

Topmost among these weaknesses was holding the Doctrine of Balaam and Nicolaitans.

In the book of Numbers Chapters 23 and 24, while journeying from Egypt to the Promised Land, the Israelites encountered and conquered many Countries on their way until they came to a Place called Moab.

Here King Balak was afraid of them and so consulted Balaam (a Prophet of God) to curse them. This ploy however failed after several attempts and at a point, Balaam advised King Balak to feign friendship with the Israelites – invite them to a feast and later seduced them using the most seductive and near-nude ladies around to entice them.

This worked as the Israelites fornicated with these ladies and later worshipped in their shrines.

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God was so much angry with them that about twenty four thousand (24,000) of them were killed (Numbers 25: 1-9).

When God was referring to these set of people in Revelation 2; He was simply referring to those who taught the Satanic Philosophy that: *"Once saved, forever saved" notwithstanding the sins committed thereafter.

This is a big lie from the pit of hell and its gradually turning people into victims and prodding them towards God's Judgement.

They believed that they can take excuse(s) from God to commit sins and later come back to Him for forgiveness.

Be careful friends what you imbibe Spiritually irrespective of the Person asking you to do same.

The real intention of the devil is to make you so loathsome to your Maker and later turns around to fight against you and utterly destroy you.

Closely related to the Doctrine of Balaam is the Doctrine of Nicolaitans.

The Nicolaitans were the follower of a heretic Nicolas who saw nothing wrong with a man sleeping with other people's wives. They also believed that there was nothing wrong in eating foods sacrificed and dedicated to idols.

Like the Libertines, they believed that people should be free to do whatever they so much desired as they like.

Many are deceived in this manner as they found it practically difficult to embrace the higher living standards of the Bible and so adopted their own self-styled human standards of living.

In Revelation 2:15; the Lord without mincing words declared that He hates the people that Practiced the Doctrine of Balaam and Nicolaitans.

Sadly however today we see and have many Churches nowadays that Promotes Promiscuity among their Youths because of their mode of dressing - indecent exposure of sensitive parts of their bodies in Public as well as the level of Freedom permitted between both sexes all in the name of Modernization.

In their desperate efforts to grow their Churches; they adopt various Strategies like sending pretty ladies clad in micro minis and semi nude clothes to bring the rich and mighty in the Society into the Church.

Sometimes, some of them deliberately retained them as Ushers in order to fan the embers of lust on their Members and make them come to Church.

Nowadays, such teachings are even modified as they teach their Members that it is impossible to live a Perfect Holy life as long as you are in the world.

Thank You so much for your kind attention!



4. THE CHURCH IN THYATIRA

The letter to the Church in Thyatira was the longest even though they are the smallest Church.

Thyatira was a great town that specializes in dyeing wool into red or purple. It had a shrine where fortune-telling was regularly Practiced.

Their Local Unions carried out various Commercial activities; pledged their allegiance to their local deities and freely engaged in immorality in the temples of their shrines.

One major challenge Christians faced there is how to do their business without sinning to God as they will be compelled to engage in idolatry and immorality once they joined the Union - and they cannot do business without joining the Union.

So they found themselves in a fix.

Friends, we need to thank God for Nigeria whereby we have a Choice – Freedom of worship and expression as well as freedom to do business without molestation.

How would you have coped if you find yourself in a Place like Thyatira?

However according to Revelation 13, a time of Antichrist like that is coming into the world.

Business then will be like a “Global-Cult” and even worst as people will be forced to join it or be tortured and killed.

... If you cannot cope with little temptations in your business today, then one wonders how will you cope at that time?

In this City, was a very influential woman who called herself “Prophetess So and So” - but Jesus Christ called her Jezebel.

She was very rich and wielded so much influence over the people because she was one of their Leaders.

What name are people calling you? – Bishop, Archbishop, Pastor, Evangelist or Reverend!

Before you however recline and rejoice in that toga, find out first the name the Lord calls you. - Your works will determine the kind of name Heaven will assign to you.

Never as Leader take undue advantage and mislead any of your Members. Then never you play gods in their lives as well.

... Always remember that you will give account of them one very day (Hebrew 13: 17).

As Leader even in the Church as of today, always watch over your temper.

In spite of His angry disposition in Revelation 2: 18-29; The Lord could still correctly assess the state of the Church in Thyatira and commended them for several things that they did right.

Many Leaders today in moments of anger do not recall the Good Things they saw in their spouse, worker, Minister or subordinates.

Can you still Praise that erring subordinates when you are cross with them?

This attribute of Jesus Christ portrays that He is ever in control of His emotions.

He is not subjective but objective and yet with a Powerful stint of Mercy.

Finally like Jezebel, some Self-Professing Christians are nothing but poison in the Church of God - forgetting that they cannot deceive God.

You should be careful to choose carefully who you will take your allegiance to as your “Spiritual Leader” (Mathew 6: 24).

Thank You so much for your kind attention!



5. THE CHURCH IN SARDIS

The letter wrote to the Church in Sardis in Revelation 3: 1-6 is a very sad one.

Unlike all the previous letters to the earlier four (4) Churches; there was barely anything Good to say about them except that there were just a few of them that did not defile themselves.

One lesson for us to take home rightaway from here is that our Lord, Jesus Christ is very Objective in His Assessments – He calls a spade a spade and not an axe as some of us will do if found in same situation.

If there is nothing at all Good in you, He will say it with Love to provoke you to change - Unlike most of the Church Leaders that we have nowadays that are Subjective in Nature.

... This is due to Fear, Favouritism or Tribal Sentiments - They, in the Process take sides when Judging matter(s).

How Impartial are you in your Judgements in Life?

Always remember you will be Judged the same way you give Judgement (Mathew 7: 1-2).

We also learnt that no matter how polluted a Group of People can be, there is still high tendency to have a Faithful remnant even among the lot.

In Sardis, there was a remnant few at a time when the Israelites captives taken to Babylon had compromised their Faith by bowing down to the golden image of Nebuchadnezzar.

This remnant few stood for the God of Israel (Daniel 3) at a time the Nation of Israel backslide and began to worship idols.

... During the days Jezebel, there was still a Faithful remnant called Elijah with the seven thousand (7,000) others.

Jesus Christ introduced the Church as being reputed to being Alive whereas they were dead.

The question however is that: Is it possible to be dead while still living?

From the account recorded here, we found out that it is pretty possible.

The Church in Sardis employed wrong yardsticks for determining who was Spiritually Alive or dead.

The truth of the matter is that: Anytime wrong measures are used in assessing Performance, the results will be Deceptive.

Many Pastors engage in much fanfare whereas all these are carnal and unacceptable to God.

It is the greatest height of Deception to equate Activity with Spirituality.

Any Programme that you hold in your Local Church that does not add Spiritual Benefits to the Members of your Congregation is a mere Jamboree in the long run.

The error of the Church in Sardis is still very evident today even today in most of the Churches that we have around: They wanted to be seen to belong to the High and Mighty. And the focus automatically changes from being on Jesus Christ to Man Centered.

The question begging for answer is that: Who do you really want to impress by inflating the Attendance Figures or Financial Returns as well as lying about your Overall Performance of your Local Church?

Check this Out: The Church at Sardis met the requirements of men and was rated as a Lively Church but the Owner of the Church does not find any atom of Spirituality in them sadly.

The size of a Church if big does not make it better than small Churches.

Another way to be dead is by pursuing Pleasures - Please be aware that Christianity is not after all a bed of roses.

Those who want the benefits alone without carrying the Cross will find out interestingly that they are Spiritually cut off from the Vine.

Pleasures-Seeking Christians ends up gratifying their flesh to the detriment of their souls.

... So the admonition to them today is that they are advised to be Watchful.

1 Corinthians 10: 12 says: The best time to Watch is when you think all is well.

... At your best period or at a time when you are closer to your Goal - something sinister could just be lurking there around the corner just to bring you down and have you disgraced in life.

You need to Watch over the Following: The Wiles of the devil, Temptations (Mathew 26:41), False Teachings and Doctrines, the Company you keep and Level of Corruptions that you are exposed to.

Just like Paul, personally resolved and said that: Nothing should separate you from the love of God.

... Like a Man of God said sometimes ago: "Others may but I cannot".

You are definitely different from every other Person - So the advice is: Stay firmly in Christ!

Thank You so much for your kind attention!



6. THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA

The word Philadelphia is from the Greek word “Philadelphos” - Meaning Brotherly Love.

The City is established in the midst of Plain Grape Fruits – this gives them access to cheap wine and the reason many of the People in this City get drunk easily.

Aside the above, they are prone to constant Earthquakes and so this makes the Church rather Strong, Vibrant and Missionary Minded.

When Mohammed and his followers invaded Asia Minor, an event that saw many Churches falling away, the Church in Philadelphia stayed together and stood Strong – they refused to yield themselves to the Jihadists.

To this day, the Church in Philadelphia is still Standing.

One thing worthy of note for this Church is that the Lord had no rebuke statement for this Church – they had little Strength yet stood firmly for the Lord.

This simply means that your Local Church can be without rebuke from the Lord if this feeble Church can be without rebuke from the Lord.

We learnt from them that a Church that is built on Love and Winning Souls for God will always overcome any Temptations that comes their ways from the devil no matter what.

If your Strength is small and you have God’s backing behind you, you will achieve more than those with greater Strength but with no God.

When God backs you, He will make things easy for you by Opening Doors to you where you least expected such to open.

For instance He will create more opportunities to win more Souls for a Soul Winner.

When you walk in a way you ought to as a god in this world (Psalm 82:6); the door of several opportunities will be opened to you.

You can command God as touching the Works of His Hands as Joshua commanded the Sun to Stand Still at Gibeon and the Moon at the Valley of Ajalon until Victory was obtained for Joshua (Joshua 10:12).

The rain will obey you and not disturb your Church Programmes again; you will Part the Sea like Moses, Elijah and Elisha did or you will Walk on the Sea like Jesus Christ.

Death will be afraid of you because you will restore life to that Lazarus by the Power of God; sickness will bow at your command; demons will look for swine to inhabit and when the Kingdom of darkness challenges you, they will be forced to eat the humble pie.

In essence, Uncommon Miracles, Signs and Wonders will follow your Ministries and makes the Gospel very easy for you.

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... Nothing can withstand you if you carry the Glory of God.

However, except He opens, nobody else can. If He does not help you, nobody can (Psalm 60:11).

This is simply Possible because His Name has been Highly Exalted above every other names (Philippians 2:9-11).

One of the Promises God gave to the Church in Philadelphia is that He would keep them from Temptations and evil that would come upon the world because they kept His Commands.

The lesson here is that whatever you do has a way of coming back to you at the long run.

You can sow Seeds of Patience and get bountiful harvest from it.

Some people are always in haste when they come to Church – in the process checking their watches as if they wanted to leave Church in a matter of minutes in order to attend to their business.

King Saul was Impatient with God and went ahead to do what he was not supposed or authorised to do – little wonder God ran out of Patience with him too and rejected him as King over Israel.

David on the other hand was Patient with God and so when he messed up, God had no choice than to be Patient with him.

Friends, note this very well: Some delays are designed or orchestrated for you simply in order to test your Patience!

The Church in Philadelphia was advised and admonished to hold on what they have less another fellow takes their Crown from them.



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7. THE CHURCH IN LAODICEA.

Laodicea was a strong Financial Centre in those days.

One noticeable characteristics of the Church is that it has very rich inhabitants who thought that since they have virtually all that they needed in life, they did not need God again.

Laodicea is in the heart of Textile Manufacturing - Providing Specialized Medical Care for eyes and ears.

The belief of their members is that they can do virtually everything they wanted with their money.

Therefore, their comfort and affluence made them very Proud indeed!

If you looked closely, the Church in Laodicea is the only Church that the Lord had nothing Good to say about them of the Seven Churches discussed about.

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Even as bad as Sardis was, it still had some Good People.

Meanwhile, they saw themselves as the happening Church as they have all their Physical Needs met.

Interestingly, this is the kind of Church even most of us today will like to be in as Members.

Their Members dress as if they are going for Fashion Parade or some kind of Beauty Pageant.

Today, so much has been done to the Church in the disguise and name of Fashion – the Church now looks at the world for Fashion instead of the world looking at the Church for Fashion.

Though it is not a bad thing to be well gorgeously and dressed, yet God is more interested about your "Internal Dressings and Adornments" than your "External Dressings and Adornments".

There is a Popular saying that says: The way you are Dressed is the way you will be Addressed.

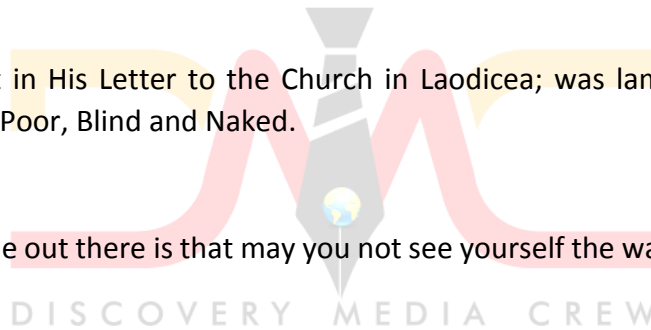
When Moses, an Hebrew man and potential Deliverer of Israel went on exile; he was taking and addressed as an Egyptian simply because he wore an Egyptian's cloth.

At salvation, you will be given a Garment of Salvation and a New Man – which has the Nature of God created in you.

In all of these that they are celebrating their "Immense Success".

The Lord, Jesus Christ in His Letter to the Church in Laodicea; was lamenting that they were Wretched, Miserable, Poor, Blind and Naked.

My Prayers to someone out there is that may you not see yourself the way God is not seeing you - Amen.



The Bible should remain yardstick for Measuring your Progress in Life.

Wealth without holiness is abhorred by God (James 5: 1-6).

The Greatest Lesson for us here is that we need to stir clear of Pride as it is capable of eroding all our Good works.

Lucifer for example was created Perfect in Beauty with Position and Power from God but the day Pride enters into him and he began to rub shoulders with God; God simply pushed aside all His investments on him and dealt with him.

Any Proud Person is simply telling God that he is Self-Sufficient and did not need God.

It takes humility for you to respect God.

Another problem with the Church in Laodicea is lukewarmness – Neither cold nor warm.

Every lukewarm Person has an element of laziness in him or her – It is either you are for Him or against Him.

The Church in Laodicea are indifferent to what God asked them to do.

Earlier Paul wrote to Archippus (Bishop of the Church) in Colossians 4: 16-17 to take heed of the Ministry and fulfill it but he simply paid deaf ears to the advice.

We need to be zealous and do God's Work at the Appropriate Time.

... Zeal has genuine interest in what is being done.

A Zealous person is in hurry to Please God – paying tithes and offering, winning souls or obeying God generally.

God used different titles from Church to Church.

1. To the Laodicean Church, He introduced Himself as Amen, the Faithful Witness and the Beginning of the Creation of God (Revelation 3:14).

Amen simply means "So let it be".

In the olden days, Amen is used as “Signatures” on all of God’s Promises (2 Corinthians 1:20).

2. He called Himself the “Faithful Witness”.

And so anything He said about Heaven is True because through Him, the Heaven and Earth were created.

3. And lastly He called Himself the “Beginning of the Creation of God” because Creation started with Him (John 1: 1-3).

So, if you desire Divine Inspirations for Creativity, all you need do is to hook up with the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

In essence, your wealth is worth nothing to God unless they are converted to something of Value to God.

Finally, God told the Laodicean Church to buy eye drops from him so as to have a clear Vision (Revelation 3:18).



They needed “Spiritual Eye Drops” to clear their eyes.

Therefore they are expected to have same focus and goal and not divergent ones with God – God wants more souls and you are busy Pleasing People.

How possible is this going to work?

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CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION, we can see from all the Letters that God wrote to all the seven (7) Churches; He did not only talk about the Problem(s) of each of the Churches but offered a Valuable Solution to them.

This simply shows us that Jesus Christ who is the Head of the Churches knows exactly the challenges of each of the Church/Parish under His Control and their solutions.

Therefore, as a Leader in the Church, if you can Pray, God will guide you as to what to do.

The issue nowadays is that People do not want to Pray again but rely on the former ways of doing things.

You are an Original Creative Copy of God's Creation and not a copy cat.

... God is standing and knocking at the door of your heart today.



In Revelation 3:21; He said that to as many that Overcome, they will seat together with Him on His Throne.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the One that will Personally fight to stop all these wrong Doctrines in the Churches.

All you need do today is to repent, turn over back your life to God and turn a New Leaf.

Thank you for staying and reading through all the Series.

We at Discovery Media Crew are Poised to give you the very best that you can dream of getting around.

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The truth of the matter is that: “every daily effort you fail to make use of gradually erodes your position in life”.

...The choice is therefore yours...”So PAY THE PRICE!”

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