

Seven Churches

In the first three chapters of Revelation, John writes to the church: not to those who have not accepted Christ. Common to each church he writes '**I know thy works**', which means they all had originally accepted Jesus Christ as their wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. In some way all but two of them had been 'corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ'.

John mentioned three names; Nicolaitanes, Balaam and Jezebel. Balaam was instrumental in enticing the people of Israel to get entangled with other gods. If the Nicolaitans taught a similar doctrine to Balaam, it most likely urged believers to make a *practical compromise* with the society within which they found themselves. "They taught that Christians ought to remain members of the pagan clubs, and that they might do so without disloyalty to their faith." How doubly-dangerous is such compromise with the surrounding culture: eroding the sanctification of the believer while simultaneously denigrating the witness of the Church. Jezebel is the great whore of Revelation 17.

Each warning description is in black; the Bible's words are in green.

Each and every believer should be aware of the warning to the Churches because he will find himself described in one or more of the Churches. (**He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**)

1. Ephesus

You accepted Jesus Christ as your wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. (**I know thy works**)

You became very zealous to do right living; (**thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.**)

You have even recognized false teachers and exposed them. (**thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars**)

But in your zeal you forgot that it is Jesus Christ that 'worketh within you' and not your own effort. (**because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen**)

Unless you repent and depend on Jesus Christ (**do the first works**), 'I will remove thy candlestick'.

But the one thing good I have to say about you, is that you don't integrate into your lives the practices of the world around you. (**thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes**)

2. Smyrna

You accepted Jesus Christ as your wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. (**I know thy works**)

You went through trials and poverty (and tribulation, and poverty), but in them you were not swayed; 'you are rich' (but thou art rich). You have withstood the pressure from those who say they are mine but are not (I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan).

You will be imprisoned, and endure affliction (Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days:); some will even die (be thou faithful unto death).

' I will give thee a crown of life'

3. Pergamos

You accepted Jesus Christ as your wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. (I know thy works)

You try (where thou dwellest even where Satan's seat is) to stand true to the Word of God (thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith) even with all the deception around you (even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth).

Some of you have made friends with people of the world and flirted with their practices like Yoga, Reiki, Energy Healing, etc (thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication). Some even integrate into their lives the practices of the world around them (thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes).

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against you with the sword of my mouth.

4. Thyatira

You accepted Jesus Christ as your wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. (I know thy works)

You are zealous to do my work (charity, service, faith, thy patience, and thy works) (charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works), but you have given too much emphasis to 'right living' (the last to be more than the first).

You allow the harlot from 'Revelation 17' to influence your teachings, and cause people to get involved with idolatrous adulterous practices (thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols) and slip away. I have given her time to repent but she has not (I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not).

Repent, or 'I will cast her and you into great tribulation' (I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds).

Since you as parents have allowed yourselves to be deceived I will allow your children to be spiritually dead (I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts); I will give unto every one of you according to your works (I will give unto every one of you according to your works).

But to the rest of you, who have not accepted their teachings and have not pursued their practices (as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak), I will not place any more demands (I will put upon you none other burden); just hold fast to my Word till I come (But that which ye have already hold fast till I come).

5. Sardis

You accepted Jesus Christ as your wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. (I know thy works)

You have made a profession of faith but just live your life; you don't read my Word and let it wash you (that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead). You will fall away if you do not get into the Word (Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die); you have not allowed me to change you (I have not found thy works perfect before God).

Repent; grab onto what you first had; let the Word wash you (Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast); or (If therefore thou shalt not watch) 'I will come as a thief'.

There are some of you who have got into the Word and allowed me to wash them (Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments); 'they are worthy' (they are worthy).

6. Philadelphia

You accepted Jesus Christ as your wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. (I know thy works)

You have allowed the Word of God to wash you (I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it); you have not let the world influence you (thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name).

I will make those who say they have the truth but do not (I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie), come and worship me in your presence (I will make them to come and worship before thy feet): so that they will know you are mine.

Because you have stood on the Word (thou hast kept the word of my patience), 'I will keep you from the temptation that is to come' (I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth).

Do not let anyone convince you to stop allowing the Word to wash you. (hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown).

7. Laodiceans

You accepted Jesus Christ as your wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. (I know thy works)

You neither stand for truth or support the evil; you want to fit in with God's people and the world (thou art neither cold nor hot). I wish you would choose one (I would thou wert cold or hot). If not, 'I will spew you out' (because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth).

You say you are doing very well (**thou sayest, I am rich**); God is blessing you (**increased with goods, and have need of nothing**). No, you are wretched (**knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked**); use what you have, to try to learn the truth (**I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear**); if you have to buy something to open your eyes: do it (**anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see**).

Those I love, I rebuke and chasten (**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten**): be zealous therefore, and repent (**be zealous therefore, and repent**).

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:

if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (*Revelation 3:20*)