

Revelation | The Letters to the Seven Churches



Presented by Dallas Carter on September 20 at New Covenant Church of the Apostles

Rev 2–3 | Letters to the Churches

1. The Church as Both a Spiritual and Physical Organization
2. Spiritual Organizations legally constituted Assemblies
3. Physical Churches only Carry authority to degree of Spiritual faithfulness.
4. Seven letters a diagnostic and Primer on healing Church of dysfunctions hindering her from assuming her royal position in the Courts of the Lord.
5. Diagnosis and treatment follow precise algorithm.

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Method of Jesus' diagnostic and Treatment of Church problems

Address leadership	Each letter begins with the words “To the angel of the church of...”
Relavant Revelation	After these words, Christ would introduce Himself to each of the seven churches using a relevant attribute needed to address the situation that the particular church was facing.
Lead off with Praise	After the introduction, Christ would give praise for the good things that the church was doing. Because of his great love, He gives good commendations first to set a positive tone so that the coming rebuke, if needed, would have constructive outcome.

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Method of Jesus' diagnostic and Treatment of Church problems

Issue Rebuke	Issue rebukes. Smyrna and Philadelphia received none; Sardis and Laodicea received only rebukes
Warning and Promises	Issue warning of judgment or promises of blessing.
Promises to Overcomers	Promises issues to overcomers that position them in God's Royal Court, also called the Divine Council
He that hath an ear	This phrase applies this to the Universal Church

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Church	Promise to Overcomers	Positioning in God's Court
Ephesus	To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God	In God's Paradise
Smyrna	He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death	Full Participant in Christ's Resurrection
Pergamos	To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone , and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it	The guest of honor at Greco-Roman parties received a white stone. Stone and new name signify special access to God

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Church	Promise to Overcomers	Positioning in God's Court
Thyatira	And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'	Implies Ruling with Christ from a throne beside His
Philadelphia	12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and 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.	Permanent presence in God's Temple

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Church	Promise to Overcomers	Positioning in God's Court
Sardis	5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.	Received clothes for eternal dwelling and Galilean Wedding party, and guaranteed a spot there
Loadicea	. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.	Seated with Christ on His Throne

Troubleshooting Church Problems

Church Problem	Description of problem	God's Response	What Overcomers Must Do
Loss of Devotion to Christ. (Ephesus)	Losing focus and devotion to Christ amidst programs and legalistic faithfulness	Loss of anointing/ spiritual position in Heavenly realms if church fails to renew first love	Renew first love to restore joy of salvation
Doctrine of Balaam (Pergamos)	Merchandising the ministry and subverting God's law for purely human agendas	The Sword of His mouth enforces original intent	Abandon subversive love and pursue God's original intent

Troubleshooting Church Problems

Church Problem	Description of problem	God's Response	What Overcomers Must Do
Doctrine of Nicolaitans (Pergamos)	Cronyism, Controlling people, and sexual immorality with Gnostic intersection	Secret knowledge given to all as evidenced by Hidden manna, white stone,	Restoration of Priesthood of the believer, with implementation of five-fold ministry
Jezebel Spirit (Thyatira)	Manipulation, Sexual immorality, and the occult	Executes discipline on Jezebel's, lovers, children	Removal of those from leadership who refuse to repent if possible; else removal of self from Jezebel churches

Troubleshooting Church Problems

Church Problem	Description of problem	God's Response	What Overcomers Must Do
Dead Churches/ self-centered religion (Sardis, Laodicea)	Lack of spiritual life, dead ritual, self-centered religion, and lack of salvation	Fold fast to what remains. Buy of Jesus gold, salve, and clothes.	Hold fast to what spiritual life remains; Come to Jesus
Lack of Victory (Smyrna)	Churches at the beginning of persecution and trials have yet to overcome.	Crown of Life (Victor's Crown) awarded for faithful perseverance	Hold fast and be faithful through trials and tribulations
The Overcoming Church (Philadelphia)	Has already overcome; instructed to hold fast to what they have	God has provided Access to Christ's royal authority through the Key of David and an Open Door	Hold fast to keep Victor's Crown and access to God's Throne, and receive permanent place in God's Temple