

**"THROUGH THE BIBLE"**

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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**THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

**Chapter 2**

**"THE THINGS WHICH ARE-THE CHURCH AGE"**

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*"All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16 NKJV).*

***"What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea," (Rev. 1:11 NKJV).***

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

**REVELATION COMMENTARY**

- *Jesus our ultimate Redeemer, Lord, Savior, Messiah and Sovereign Christ is the central figure of Revelation, who is coming again. He is the Eternal, Majestic, and revealed "Gift of God."*
- *God's Plan was given to His Son, Jesus Christ-The prophecy says "...not one letter or word will pass away, but remain in effect...till all is fulfilled" (Matt. 5:18 NIV). Regarding "things to come" God has guided and directed all the details. The Risen Lord says, "Write...I will explain the mystery...the lampstands are the seven churches." (Rev. 1:19-20).*

**CENTRAL TRUTHS FOR THE CHURCH**

- *Every Christian believer needs a personal revelation of the living Christ. The whole Word of God points to Jesus Christ. THE VISION: John, writing from the Island of Patmos, introduces this book as "The Revelation of Jesus Christ," who promises blessings on all who read, listen closely to the prophetic words, obey and practice those words, because the "time is near." (Rev. 1:3). KEY: The church is the "body of Christ" (Rom. 12:5), gifted by the Holy Spirit.*
- *All Christian believers must examine their motives for service and actions ("deeds, words, and thoughts") to see that they please the Lord (Ps. 62:12a, Prov. 24:12, Rom. 2:6). The true motivation: to bless, because each Church which preaches the Gospel, should be a "light-bearer" (of Christ) to their community dispelling darkness and misconceptions. It is because Jesus is Divine the Son of God, who has the authority to render judgment (John 5:27).*

## THE LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES-REVELATION 2:1-29

- *John could no longer personally visited the churches in Asia Minor. The members of the congregations were in crisis, trials, and various challenges relevant to basic human conditions. Their issues will also “hit home” for the churches in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Lord appeared and gave John His “solutions”, which would be life-changing for the congregations. The “Letters” were vital, and were to be placed under the authority of “the angel” (Minister) of that church. **NOTE:** The “Seven Churches” were selected by Christ to illustrate the spiritual conditions (sins/internal problems) possible in the churches, until He RETURNS. He walked in judgement, commendation, and condemnation among each one. That’s His Divine Holy Spirit “MO.”*

### OUTLINE

#### I. THE THINGS WHICH ARE-THE CHURCH AGE

##### A. EPHESUS-THE LOVELESS CHURCH (Rev. 2:1-7)

1. *Assets: Disciplined Service, patient endurance, steadfast, rejected false teachers, could not bear corruption, hated the heresy of Nicolaitans. Successful, so they thought.*
2. *Spiritual Problem: Search your backsliding heart: Losing heart-felt love/devotion for Christ. Warning: Remember and genuinely repent, hear, return, become a true believer again. “Do the first works” or, be REMOVED. Listen to the Spirit.*

##### B. SMYRNA-The PERSECUTED/SUFFERING CHURCH (Rev. 2:8-11)

1. *Assets: Faithfulness to Christ. In spite of intense persecution, poverty, suffering, not well loved in their community. The Lord considered them “rich” (born-again).*
2. *Spiritual Problem: The continued pressure attacks and focused threats from the “devil” caused the Smyrna believers to fear, worry, and dread death. Persecution, abuse, slander, will continue to come. Threats of being thrown into prison.*
3. *The Desired Response to Suffering: The Encouragement, (Rev. 2:10-11). Christ Himself says, “Fear none of those things.” The Lord counsels the Church to be patient and remain loyally faithful. The “test” will not be forever. All events of our lives are in His hands. Listen to the Spirit.*

##### C. PERGAMOS-THE WORLDLY CHURCH, WHERE SATAN LIVES (Rev. 2:12-17)

1. *Assets: Faithfulness to hold on to My NAME; you did not deny MY FAITH.*
2. *Spiritual Problem: False Doctrine: Balaam/Nicolaitans, practicing sexual immorality, being evil and ungodly. The Lord’s counsel: REPENT OR DIE. Listen to the Spirit.*

##### D. THYATIRA-THE PAGAN/CORRUPT/UNREPENTANT CHURCH (Rev. 2:18-29)

1. *Assets: The Christians have grown in the faith (v. 19).*
2. *Thyatira was a commercial/industrial center.*
3. *Spiritual Problem: The church got involved in pagan false teachings with a character symbolically named “Jezebel” (v.20). Jesus dittos His PERGAMOS message to the Christians at Thyatira. The tragedy, she would not repent.*