

“Revelations #3”

Revelations 2: 1- 7

Review: 4 Views of the churches and the interpretation of Revelations.

Ephesus... “Was An influential commercial and cultural center built in the 10th century BC. The city was the main worship center of the goddess Artemis... known in Rome as Diana, the goddess of hunting and fertility. The temple of Artemis in Ephesus was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.”

Text: V’s 1 – 2 (Read)

- V1... Angel / Messenger, Pastor, or Leader.
- Spiritual overseer or actual Angel or both. (Pastor and Angel)

The seven stars represent the seven Angels, and the seven lampstands represent the seven churches.

- Jesus holds the Pastors / Angels in His hand.
- He walks in the midst of His Churches locally and at large.

Ephesians 5: 25 *“Husbands love your wives; Just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”*

Example: Brother-in-law, in Phoenix...

V2... I know your works, your labor (toil), your patience, and you cannot bear those that are evil...

- Even in that early age, counterfeits were already infiltrating the church!
- As it is today and throughout history. *“This is what I want you to see.”*
- Revelations is a futuristic book but also addresses events throughout history.

Galatians 1: 6 – 7 ESV. *“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.”*

V3... Read...

- You have persevered and not become weary for My name’s sake.
- This is a tremendous accommodation and uplifting...

Galatians 6: 9 NIV *“Let us not grow weary of doing good; for in due season we will reap, if we don’t give up.”* (NKJV) *“In well doing.”*

Hebrews 12: 3 NKJV *“Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls... you have not resisted to bloodshed.”*

V’ 4 - 5 Read...

Quote from my daily devotional...

*“The early church may at first have been resolute in doctrine, but when love and truth are separated, the gospel loses its power, and ritual takes the place of an earnest desire to seek and save the lost. **It was due to the loss of this first love that formalism began to take hold.** A system of truth became mere traditional forms, and the church began to crumble from inside.”*

- I am going to read a couple of scriptures and then open up for input...
- What is first love and what does it mean to repent and do the first works...

Romans 5: 8... *“God demonstrates His love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

1 John 4:19... *“We love Him because He first loved us.”*

1 john 4:12... *“If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.”*

V6 Read...

- **Nicolaitans:** *As a group, they compromised their Christian identity by incorporating pagan practices in their lives. Possibly, they corrupted the teachings of Nicolas from Antioch, one of the church's first deacons. (Acts 6:1 -5)*
- This corruption of Nicolas' teachings is just speculation among some scholars.
- **Nicolas was a proselyte from Antioch...** there are some historical records that support the notion that this same Nicolas may have been the pioneer of a Gnostic sect named after Him.
- This is a study in itself, and can be overwhelming...

V7 Read...

- This is an admonition given to all seven churches.
- **To him who overcomes... to the one who is victorious.**

This is the main function of the book of revelation... to give assurance and comfort to suffering believers. It is to assure us that as Christians we have the ultimate victory.

- *God and God's people have victory over the powers of evil and death.*
- *Unveiling of Jesus Christ and His victory, hence our victory...*