

# LIVING FOR CHRIST

## CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

### THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION 2-3

#### LESSON 1

##### INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Revelation 1



##### CHRIST AMONG HIS CHURCHES

- ◆ Jesus walks among His churches
- ◆ Jesus knows every church completely
- ◆ Jesus evaluates churches by spiritual condition, not appearance
- ◆ Every church will give an account to Christ

##### KEY TRUTH:

*"The solution to every church problem begins with seeing Christ correctly."*

#### LESSON 2

##### EPHESUS

THE CHURCH THAT LEFT ITS FIRST LOVE

Revelation 2:1-7



- ✓ **COMMENDED FOR:**
  - Hard work
  - Perseverance
  - Sound doctrine
  - Rejecting false teaching
- ✗ **CONDEMNED FOR:**
  - Leaving their first love
- ➔ **CHRIST'S COMMAND:**
  - Remember
  - Repent
  - Return

##### KEY TRUTH:

*"Activity is not intimacy."*

#### LESSON 3

##### SMYRNA

THE SUFFERING CHURCH

Revelation 2:8-11



- ✓ **COMMENDED FOR:**
  - Faithfulness under pressure
  - Endurance through persecution
  - Spiritual riches despite material poverty
- ✗ **CONDEMNED FOR:**
  - Nothing
- ➔ **CHRIST'S COMMAND:**
  - Fear not
  - Be faithful unto death

##### KEY TRUTH:

*"Suffering is not defeat."*

#### LESSON 4

##### PERGAMOS

HOLDING FAST IN A COMPROMISING CULTURE

Revelation 2:12-17



- ✓ **COMMENDED FOR:**
  - Holding fast Christ's name
  - Remaining faithful in a hostile culture
- ✗ **CONDEMNED FOR:**
  - The doctrine of Balaam
  - The doctrine of the Nicolaitans
  - Compromise with the world
- ➔ **CHRIST'S COMMAND:**
  - Repent

##### KEY TRUTH:

*"Compromise is often more dangerous than persecution."*

#### LESSON 5

##### THYATIRA

TOLERATING WHAT GOD CONDEMNS

Revelation 2:18-29



- ✓ **COMMENDED FOR:**
  - Love
  - Service
  - Faith
  - Patience
  - Growing works
- ✗ **CONDEMNED FOR:**
  - Tolerating Jezebel
  - False teaching
  - Spiritual corruption
- ➔ **CHRIST'S COMMAND:**
  - Repent
  - Hold fast

##### KEY TRUTH:

*"Good works can never compensate for tolerated sin."*

#### LESSON 6

##### SARDIS

A REPUTATION WITHOUT LIFE

Revelation 3:1-6



- ✓ **COMMENDED FOR:**
  - A faithful remnant
- ✗ **CONDEMNED FOR:**
  - Spiritual deadness
  - Reputation without reality
  - Failure to watch
- ➔ **CHRIST'S COMMAND:**
  - Be watchful
  - Strengthen what remains
  - Remember
  - Hold fast
  - Repent

##### KEY TRUTH:

*"It's possible to impress people and disappoint Christ."*

#### LESSON 7

##### PHILADELPHIA

THE FAITHFUL CHURCH

Revelation 3:7-13



- ✓ **COMMENDED FOR:**
  - Keeping Christ's Word
  - Not denying His name
  - Faithfulness despite little strength
- ✗ **CONDEMNED FOR:**
  - Nothing
- ➔ **CHRIST'S COMMAND:**
  - Hold fast

##### KEY TRUTH:

*"Faithfulness matters more than strength."*

#### LESSON 8

##### LAODICEA

THE LUKEWARM CHURCH

Revelation 3:14-22



- ✓ **COMMENDED FOR:**
  - Nothing
- ✗ **CONDEMNED FOR:**
  - Lukewarmness
  - Self-sufficiency
  - Spiritual blindness
  - Pride
- ➔ **CHRIST'S COMMAND:**
  - Repent
  - Open the door

##### KEY TRUTH:

*"What you think you are and what Christ knows you are may not be the same."*

### THE PROGRESSION OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES



### THE CENTRAL MESSAGE

- ✓ Christ knows His church
- ✓ Christ commends faithfulness
- ✓ Christ confronts compromise
- ✓ Christ calls for repentance
- ✓ Christ rewards overcomers



*"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."*

REVELATION 2:7

IT'S TIME MINISTRIES

IT'S TIME TO KNOW • IT'S TIME TO GROW • IT'S TIME TO GO