

THE EVALUATION

A STUDY OF THE 7 CHURCHES

SAMPLE

EPHESUS

SMYRNA

PERGAMOS

THYATIRA

SARDIS

PHILADELPHIA

LAODICEA

THE EVALUATION

A Study of the 7 Churches

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EACH CHURCH CHAPTER CONSISTS OF

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ Read | ✓ Facts & History | ✓ Consider & Grow |
| ✓ Search & Define | ✓ Q&A | ✓ Make It Personal |
| ✓ Examination | ✓ Video | ✓ Apply |

LET'S GET STARTED

THE INTRODUCTION

This study is a look at the words from Jesus Christ to the seven churches of Asia. The messages unique to each church's situation were written in a book sent to the seven churches throughout what is modern-day Turkey. It is amazing to imagine Jesus speaking to John and breaking down for each church what God was saying they were doing right, what God was saying they were doing wrong, what they needed to do, and what promises they needed to hold onto. John wrote what God said and showed, put it in a book, and the messages are still eye-opening for us today. They highlight key fights, important reminders, and critical promises to hold to in the last days and apply to our everyday lives.



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In this study, we'll learn more about the seven churches. We'll start with an introduction to lay our foundation, and close with a personal assessment called, "Your Turn." For every church, we've created rich and helpful materials so you can dig in, learn, and apply, including:

- **Embedded Scripture to Read, Search, & Define**
- **Time to Examine: Break It Down**
 - o Good Characteristics & Problems
 - o Commands & Promises
- **Time To Study: Facts, History, Q&A**
- **Time to Learn**
 - o Teaching Video
 - o Notes Section
- **Consider & Grow**
 - o Church summary
 - o Key point & encouragement
 - o Scriptural Cross-References
- **Time to Evaluate: Make It Personal**
 - o Your Report Card
 - o Application Questions

As the church in the present, let's explore these churches from the past & make sure our ways are pleasing to Him today.

LET'S GET STARTED

Read Revelation 1, the chapter before the messages to the seven churches (in Rev. 2-3), and then answer these questions.

1. What Greek word does "Revelation" come from? What does it mean?

2. Who was the Word sent to and written by?

3. What three actions would be blessed when it came to the book of Revelation?

4. Where were the seven churches located?

5. Were the churches addressed in seven separate letters or one book? Write the scripture reference that proves it.

6. Name the seven churches in the order scripture addresses them. What verse list them all?

7. What did the seven stars represent? Where were they in relation to Jesus?

8. What did the seven candlesticks represent? Where was Jesus in relation to them?

LET'S GET STARTED

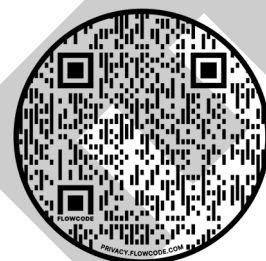
THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

The whole book of Revelation is described as the revelation (or uncovering) of Jesus Christ and chapter 1 definitely fits this focus. This is important because (1) the book of Revelation specifically (and the whole Bible) is about Jesus and (2) He is the one who will be evaluating and addressing each church. Write 5 things you read about Jesus in Revelation Chapter 1 & the verse each fact was found in.

Characteristic	Verse
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

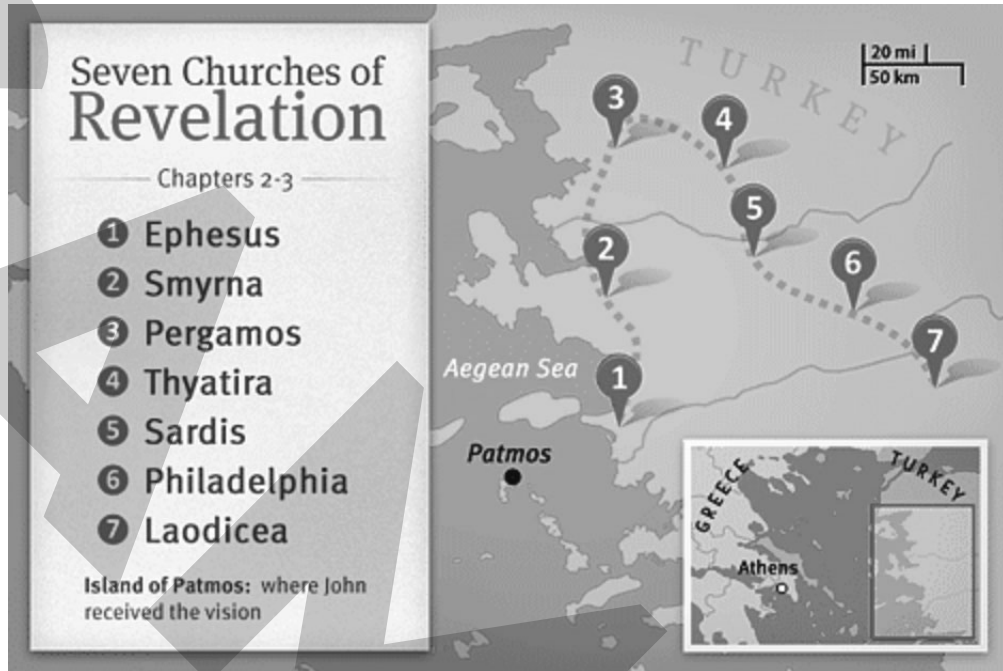


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CHURCH OVERVIEW

Introduction – Rev. 1	Church in Thyatira – Rev. 2:18-29
Church of Ephesus – Rev. 2:1-7	Church in Sardis – Rev. 3:1-6
Church in Smyrna – Rev. 2:8-11	Church in Philadelphia – Rev. 3:7-13
Church in Pergamos – Rev. 2:12-17	Church of the Laodiceans – Rev. 3:14-22



Seven churches of Revelation map (artwork by Kelly Cunningham)

In Jesus' message to each church, there is a consistent structure. As you explore the writing to the churches, you'll be identifying these various sections.

Introduction – all start with two things:

"These things saith" – a description of Jesus Christ	"I know thy works" – before addressing the specific church, He makes this statement
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Message – the word Jesus sends to the churches usually fit within four categories:

<u>Good Characteristics</u> Spiritually, what did this church do well? What good thing(s) did Jesus recognize?	<u>Problems</u> Spiritually, what was wrong with this church? What problems did Jesus identify?
<u>Commands</u> What did God instruct this church to do? What commands did they need to follow?	<u>Promises</u> What did God promise this church? What did Jesus say He would do?

Conclusion – All end with two things:

A promise to "he that overcometh" or "him that overcometh"	The statement, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches"
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MESSAGE TO
EPHESUS

*"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the
Spirit saith unto the churches..."*
Revelation 2:7



SAMPLE

Image Source:

<https://blog.radissonblu.com/visit-ancient-roman-ruins-ephesus-turkey/>

THE CHURCH OF E P H E S U S

...thou hast left thy first love. – Revelation 2:4



READ | REVELATION 2: 1-7

Rev 2:1 - Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 - I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 - And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 - Nevertheless I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 - Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

6 - But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 - He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.



SEARCH & DEFINE | DIG INTO THE TEXT

Find then highlight or underline these 4 things in the scriptures above. Add the verse number you found it in.

1. "These things saith" (a description of Jesus)
2. "I know thy works"
3. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches"
4. A promise to "he that overcometh" or "him that overcometh"

Pick one word from the text and look up the meaning of the English and/or Greek word(s).

TIME TO EXAMINE

BREAK IT DOWN

GOOD CHARACTERISTICS

Spiritually, what did Ephesus do well?

PROBLEMS

Spiritually, what was wrong with Ephesus?

COMMANDS

What did God instruct Ephesus to do?

PROMISES

What did God promise Ephesus?



NOTES | WRITE WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU

TIME TO STUDY FACTS & HISTORY

- A large and prominent city on the west coast of Asia Minor
- Paul founded the church in Ephesus and he as well as Aquila, Priscilla and Timothy ministered and labored there (Acts 18-20; 1 Tim. 1:3)
- An important trade center and seaport at the Cayster river
- Largest city in the province with perhaps 300,000 people
- Temple of Artemis or Diana in Ephesus (Acts 19:23-41) was ranked as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World



Author Name: Ronan Reinart | Wikimedia Username: Rreinart |
Website URL: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/user:Rreinart>

The 'terrace houses' at Ephesus, showing how the wealthy lived during the Roman period.



Q & A | ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Who's saying these things to Ephesus?
Why is that important to know?

What are the seven stars He holds &
the seven candlesticks He walks in?
(Hint: Rev. 1:20)

What three steps were necessary for
Ephesus to fix their problem? What
was the consequence if they didn't?

TIME TO LEARN VIDEO

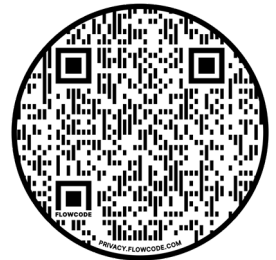


VIDEO | WATCH THE LESSON

THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

"...THOU HAST LEFT THY FIRST LOVE."

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NOTES | WRITE WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU

DON'T LEAVE YOUR FIRST LOVE CONSIDER & GROW

Ephesus was a church that did a lot of great things in their work, church, and ministry but God STILL had an issue with them. Why? Because they left their first love. They left God! They laboured, had patience, and stood for right, but their works were not enough because they didn't love God like they used to or like they should! We have the privilege of serving God (and we should get to work – 1 Cor. 15:58), but this is a real relationship where He wants our excitement, zeal, and passion for Him. He wants us close to Him! There is always something fighting for our affection and attention, but Ephesus shows us we can't let anything get between us and God. No matter what, don't leave your first love!

[Mark 12:28-30] How should we love God? Why do you think this commandment is first?

[Col. 1:14-18] In all things He should have the preeminence. What does that mean?

[Luke 10:38-42] What can we learn from the story of Mary & Martha?

[Rom 8:35-39] What things could try to separate us from the love of Christ?

TIME TO EVALUATE MAKE IT PERSONAL



YOUR REPORT CARD | COMPLETE THE CHART

Rate yourself honestly in the following areas related to the example and lessons from Ephesus.

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Usually	Always
I work for God & labour for His name's sake.					
I have patience.					
I get away from evil people.					
I hate what God hates.					
I am close to God and excited about Him.					

Honestly evaluate your love and excitement for God and the things of God now versus when you started out with Christ. Has your passion increased or decreased over time? Why?



APPLY | ANSWER EACH QUESTION HONESTLY

With Ephesus in mind, what should you DO or REMEMBER going forward?

How can you grow in your love towards God and relationship with God? What steps can you take to get closer to Him in the next 30 days?

Yes to God means no to something or someone else. What specific distractions do you need to reject?

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