

The Doctrine of End Times

Various Scriptures

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard a loud voice behind me like a trumpet saying, write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: Ephesus Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”

-Revelation 1:10-11

Why did John write a letter to 7 churches and how do those letters impact us today?

*Hold them _____

*Give them a _____

*Prepare them/us for _____

Context & Setting...

John is all alone on the island of Patmos because of the word of _____ and his testimony of _____. Suddenly he was in the _____.

In the Spirit?

- ❖ This was a _____ from God.
- ❖ He was not _____.
- ❖ He was _____ transported out of the material world. (2 Corinthians 12:1-4)
- ❖ He was empowered by the Holy Spirit.

What is it about the number 7?

7 stars = _____

Who are they? _____ Where are they? _____ (16)

7 lamp stands= _____

7 Lessons from 7 churches:

#1 The angel of the church in Ephesus: Revelation 2:1-6

The city of Ephesus was widely known for its immoral sexual practices associated with the worship of the goddess Artemis. The church however, had great leadership in Paul and Timothy. Although they were strong and faithful to God's word, they struggled in the most important aspect.

Pros

Active
Strong
Hated _____

Cons

Forsaken their love for God

What are some ways the church can abandon their love for God today?

*Lacking a passionate _____ of a relationship with _____.

*Following a _____ out of duty. *No devotion.

*Separation from sin without adoration of God.

Beware of serving, sacrificing, and suffering for Christ and not really loving Him.

Cross Reference: Matthew 22:37-38; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

What did God say would happen if they didn't repent?

#2 The angel of the church in Smyrna: Revelation 2:8-10

Smyrna; Greek word myrrh, which is the substance used for perfume and for anointing a dead body for aromatic purposes.

Problem

Affliction
Poverty
Slander

Solution

Wealth (in Christ)
Courage
Faithfulness
Crown of _____

What are some ways the church suffers persecution today?

*Destruction of _____

*Violence (mass shootings)

*Kidnapping

*Imprisonment

Regardless of the pain God's people may endure, He identifies with them.

Cross References: Ecclesiastes 8:12-13; Matthew 10:28; Romans 8:18

In what ways are you motivated knowing that you will receive a reward from God when we have endured the trials of this life?

#3 The angel of the church in Pergamum: Revelation 2:12-16

The city of Pergamum was built 1,000 feet above the countryside, creating a natural fortress. It also had the first temple dedicated to Caesar and was a rabid promoter of the cults. The city's chief god was Asclepius, whose symbol was a serpent and who was considered the god of healing. Only Ephesus rivaled this city in their worship of idols.

Pros

Standing firm
Courageous
Faithful

Cons

Condoning _____ teaching

Can you identify some false teaching that creeps into the church today?

*Condoning _____

*Being whoever you want.

*Cheating

*Doing whatever you want.

Cross References: Numbers 22:28-30; 31:15-16; 2 Peter 2:15; Jude 1:11

Don't compromise with the Devil

What did God command them to do? What would He do if they didn't?

"We should not bend God's word to fit our lives, we must bend our lives to fit God's word."