

THE CHURCH MILITANT



Lesson 12 for March 19, 2016

Let's study Jesus' letters to the seven churches in the context of the Controversy. Jesus introduces Himself in a different way to each church. We'll study the qualities of each church, how they got involved in the Controversy and what advice and promises they received.

The message to the churches is for us and our church too.

Jesus

Qualities

The
Controversy

Advice

The promise

How should
my church
relate to
Jesus

Has my
church
good
qualities?

How does
my church
fight Satan?

How does
Jesus' advice
apply to my
church?

The Spirit
promises
something
to my
church.

Who is
Jesus for
me?

What am I
doing well
according
to Jesus?

How is the
enemy
trying to
move me
away from
Jesus?

How does that
advice apply
to me?

Do I have
an ear to
hear (and
believe)
what the
Spirit
promised?

How can apply this message to my life?

*"and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary."
(Revelation 2:3)*

EPHESUS

Jesus

He walks in the midst of the seven lampstands holding the seven stars in His right hand. Christ cares leads and looks after you.



Qualities

You work hard, you are patient and you detest apostasy.

The Controversy

You have left your first love. You are tempted to forget how God led you in the past; you have changed your relationship with Him.



Advice

Repent and do your first works.

The promise

You will eat from the tree of life which is in the midst of the Paradise.



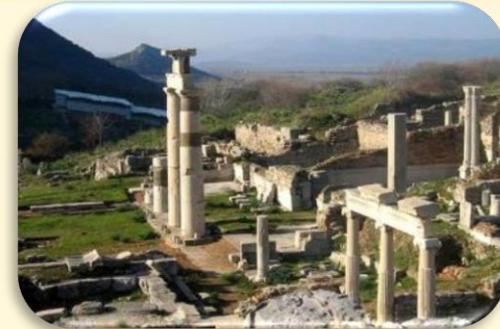
How can apply this message to my life?

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” (Revelation 2:11)

SMYRNA

Jesus

The First and the Last, who was dead and came to life.

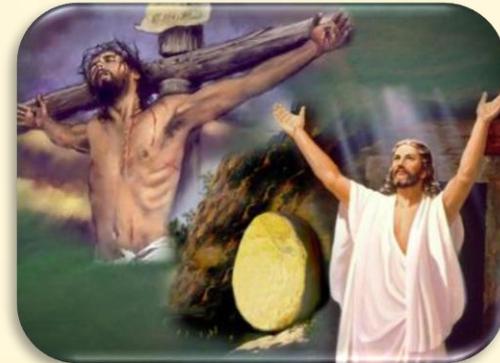


Qualities

You are spiritually rich.

The Controversy

You are suffering slander and persecution. Satan is allowed to offend the believers and even kill them sometimes.



Advice

Don't be afraid. Be faithful until death and you will be rewarded.



The promise

You won't be hurt by the second death.

How can apply this message to my life?

“Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.” (Revelation 2:16)

PERGAMON

Jesus

He has the sharp two-edged sword. He is the Judge whose verdict is irrevocable.



Qualities

You have my Name. You have not denied your faith in me.



The Controversy

You suffer persecution and apostasy (Balaam and the Nicolaitans).

Advice

Repent.



The promise

You will be fed by God. He will give you a new name written on a white stone.

How can apply this message to my life?

"I know your works, love, service, faith,[b] and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first." (Revelation 2:19)

THYATIRA

Jesus

The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass. He is full of glory.

Qualities

You have love, faith, service, patience and many works. Are you part of the faithful Remnant?

The Controversy

Do you fight against the widespread apostasy (Jezabel) that is disguised as false love and faith? Are you faithful to God?

Advice

Are you an apostate? If you are, repent. If you are part of the Remnant, you are OK. If you are faithful, stay faithful to the light you have received.

The promise

You will rule the nations and you will receive the morning star. [Jesus is the morning star (Revelation 22:16)]



How can apply this message to my life?

“You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.” (Revelation 3:4)

SARDIS

Jesus

He has the 7 spirits and the 7 stars. Jesus leads your life through the Holy Spirit.

Qualities

Are you one of the worthy people who have not been morally corrupted?

The Controversy

Are your works imperfect? Is your faith dying?

Advice

Repent and keep what you have received.

The promise

You will receive white garments. Your name won't be blotted out from the Book of Life. Jesus will confess your name before God and the angels.



How can apply this message to my life?

**"Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown."
(Revelation 3:11)**

PHILADELPHIA

Jesus

Holy and true. He has the key of David. He rules the Church and my life.

Qualities

You have kept the Word and you haven't denied Jesus' name.

The Controversy

You will have trouble with the "synagogue of Satan." You will win in the Controversy despite all that trouble.

Advice

Wait for His Coming. Keep what you have.

The promise

You will have God's character. You will have an important and permanent place at His presence.



How can apply this message to my life?

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)

LAODICEA

Jesus

The Amen, the Faithful Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God.



Qualities

– None in this message. –

The Controversy

Are you living spiritual lukewarmness and pride?



Advice

Buy gold, white garments and eye salve. Be zealous and repent. Open the door to Jesus.



The promise

You will seat down with Jesus on His throne.

“Christ is in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks, walking from church to church, from congregation to congregation, from heart to heart. He that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. If the candlesticks were left to the care of human beings, how often the light would flicker and go out! But God has not given His church into the hands of men. Christ, the One who gave His life for the world, that all who believe in Him may not perish but have everlasting life, is the Watchman of the house. He is the Warder, faithful and true, of the temple courts of the Lord.”

E.G.W. (Lift Him Up, October 31)