

The Seven Seven's Of Revelation
The Seven Churches
Revelation 2-3

1. The Church At Ephesus (Rev 2.1-7; John 14.15) - They lost their first love.

What does it look like when our love fails?

Jesus said,

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

When our love fails our surrender falters. Our obedience fails.

The Overcomer does not lose his first love. Which means He surrenders to the Lord Jesus Christ and obeys Him.

How can one say they love God with all their heart and disobey Him?

2. The Church At Smyrna (Rev 2.8-11; Matt 10.16-26) - These suffered in the Synagogue of satan. This is severe persecution.

Matt 10.16

Our Lord warned us that we would be persecuted. He said,

Matthew 10:16-26 ¹⁶ Behold, I send you forth as **sheep in the midst of wolves:** be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. ¹⁷ But **beware of men:** for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; ¹⁸ And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ **But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.** ²⁰ For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. ²¹ **And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.** ²² And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: **but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.** ²³ But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. ²⁴ The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more

shall they call them of his household? ²⁶ Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

The Overcomer is faithful unto death and will not be hurt or the second death. To be faithful unto death is to carry your testimony unto death. To not be hurt of the second death is to not be ashamed at the Great White Throne Judgment.

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How many Christians lose their testimony when faced with slight resistance? Only a few faithful will carry their full testimony through severe persecution. Our faltering destroys the gospel message.

3. **The Church At Pergamos (Rev 2.12-17; 1 John 2.15)** - These dwell where Satans Seat is. **These are intoxicated by the materialism of Balaam.** Which is the willingness to sell out on God for this world's treasures. Our Lord warned us that this worlds treasures could cause us to falter.

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

The Overcomer will eat of the hidden Manna and will have the stone with his name. **Where is the hidden manna?** It was placed in the ark of the covenant and is therefore in the very presence of God.

This stone is likened to being a VIP and having exclusive privileges. It is like holding a season ticket to an exclusive box seating area with all the benefits.

How about you? Do you sell out church for your worldly comforts and desires? Do you sell out Gods people, as Balaam did, for this worlds reputation or treasures?

4. **The Church At Thyatira (Rev 2.18-29; 1 Tim 2.12)** – This Church is a church filled with **false doctrine**. Notice that in this Church is Jezebel and she is teaching. I notice here that Jezebel is a woman and has taken up teaching and its authority. The New Testament states,

1 Timothy 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

Women are to teach other women to love God and their homes, but they are not to teach men. I find it remarkable that this false doctrine ignores God's Word as many in our day do.

Jezebels False teachings led Israel to worship Baal and to sacrifice their first born children to this satanic false God. Many Churches in our day call sin and inequity right. Many are calling evil good and good evil.

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The Overcomer who does not hold to these false doctrines, but keeps the works of God unto the end shall rule the nations and will be given the morning star (vs 25-28).

5. **The Church At Sardis (Rev 3.1-6; 1 John 3.1-3)** This Church is a Church with defiling sin in their midst, notice,

*Revelation 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis **which have not defiled their garments;** and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.*

These are defiled, what was the root cause of their defilement?

*Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. **If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.***

1 John 3.1

They are not watching and expecting the soon coming of our Lord. Expectation, anticipation of the soon coming of the Lord is pivotal for our Christian walk.

*1 John 3:1-3 ¹ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. ² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³ **And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.***

The Overcomer (vs 5) will be clothed with white and will have his name called out before God. If we are truly watching for our Lord then we will insist upon our personal purity.

6. The Church At Philadelphia (Rev 3.7-13) – These faithful Christians struggle with deceivers in their midst (vs 9) they call themselves God’s people but are not. This would be similar to those who call themselves Christians but have never truly been redeemed. But our Lord says He will give them deliverance if they hold on faithfully to His Word (vs 10).

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I sense in this statement about holding on to our Lord Word a struggle to hold on to the inerrant, infallible Word of God, as we see in our day with so many Bible versions and so much confusion about the actual Word of God.

The Overcomer (vs 12) will be a pillar in the temple of God, and that pillar will have a glorious name written on it. My friends he that cleaves to the foundation of the Word of God will be foundational in the temple of God in eternity to come. This is good reason to cleave to the Word of God.

7. The Church Of The Laodicea (Rev 3.14-19) – It is VERY IMPORTANT to notice the change in verbiage for Laodicea. This is not the Church in or at Laodicea, it is the Church **OF THE** Laodiceans. Now look at verse 20,

*Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, **I will come in to him**, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

This is the Church where Christ is on the outside knocking to get in. They are certainly religious, they were likely compassionate, but they are Christless in their Church life. The Church belongs to the people rather than the people becoming a part of a Church that belongs to Christ. I would say that this very likely the democratic Church that permeates our American culture.

As a matter of our text the name Laodicea means “of the people.”

How did Christ get evicted from this Church?

Revelation 3:17 *Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

Their prosperity and riches led them to the place where they really did not need God and do not rely upon God. They are their own God's.

The Overcomer (vs 21) will find redemption in our Lord Jesus Christ and will be with Him, where His throne is. One could easily say the overcomer will truly be born again.

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So we have survey the Seven Churches of the Revelation and notice their differing struggles and downfalls. Yet the recurring theme of this Church age from this text is that one can and must **Overcome**.

We must all be overcomers.

It is very important to note that God, nowhere in these two chapters says, leave the Church and just be a Church unto yourself. Instead He says in essence, be in your Church and overcome in the midst of your Church and its trials. As a matter of the Word of God we are told,

Hebrews 10:25 *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

The Church Age, according to God's revealed description of the things which are, will be replete with all kind of struggle and challenges. There is failing love, there are false teachers, there are greedy prophets, there is severe persecution, there will be sin and iniquity all right inside the Church. There will even be unsaved people who will say they are saved. Yet in the midst of it all the Church is God's plan to bring the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Nov 8, 2014 Evening