

8/13/17 Ch 2&3 Historic Perspective Study 18 study notes

Jesus gave John and us a **divine outline and a table of contents** in the book of Revelation 1:19: *In Revelation 1:19 "Write the **things which you have seen**, and the **things which are**, and the **things which will take place after this**.*

- a. **Write the things which you have seen:** Glorified Christ in Chapter 1
- b. **Write the things which are;** the present experiences- the 7 Churches. Chapters 2/3
- c. **Write the things which will take place after this (After these things-meta-tauta): the future-** Finally, he was to introduce the events preceding, culminating in, and following the second coming of Christ (chaps. 4–22).

The 7 letters were written by Jesus:

1. To this seven specific church and thus **has a LOCAL application**,
2. But it is deeper than that; those seven messages are for all churches is **-ecclesiastically** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches.**"
3. There is also a third layer. There is **also a personal level.**

The church is a body of believers, that thus Christ is wanting to speak to each of us this morning.

4. Finally, there is also a 4th level-These seven messages also have a **historical-prophetical view: meaning that these seven churches represent** 7 eras/epics/ages of church history, chronologically, in order in totality.

In fact, by studying these letters you will see the **entire unfolding of church history.** **church existing in the future.**

Point #1 - Be on guard: It is easy to move to a relationship where love is replaced with legalistic rules; where passion is replaced with apathy; where grace is replaced by self-imposed growth.

Point #2 - In the midst of suffering and persecution, God is still on the throne and has a plan and a purpose.

Point #3 - Moral compromise with the world, leads to spiritual death!

Point #4 - Be sure your "traditions" point to God's Word, not to paganism.

Point #5 - Doctrines, such as faith through grace; sovereignty of God's Word, must be applied to our lives and result in knowing and trusting the Lord in a deeper way and loving Him greater.

Point #6 - God is not looking at our ability but at our availability to walk through doors of evangelistic opportunity in His power!

Point #7 - God wants us to live a life of an "Overcomer" through the power of His Holy Spirit working in our life!

Historic-Prophetic view of the Seven Stages of Church History			
Church	Church History Typified	Dates (range)	Verses
Ephesus	The Apostolic Church The "Loveless" Church	A.D. 30-100; or 70 - 170 AD	Rev. 2:1-7
Smyrna	The Church of the Roman Persecution The "Persecuted" Church	A.D. 100 - 313	Rev. 2:8-11
Pergamum	The Church of the Age of Constantine The "Compromising" Church	A.D. 313 - 600	Rev. 2:12-17
Thyatira	The Church of the Dark Ages (Age of Papacy) The Medieval Roman Catholic Church The "Corrupt"	A.D. 600-1517 (Present)	Rev. 2:18-29
Sardis	The Church of the Reformation Institutional Protestantism The "Dead" Church	A.D. 1517-1648 (1730) (Present)	Rev. 3:1-6
Philadelphia	The Church of the Great Missionary & Evangelical Church Movement The "Faithful" Church	A.D. 1648-1900 (Present)	Rev. 3:7-13
Laodicea	The Church of the Apostasy The "Lukewarm" Church	A.D. 1900-present day	Rev. 3:14-22

4 of the 7 churches still exists today and Jesus clearly speaks of an end of the age application.

1. Thyatira-The Church of the Dark Ages (Age of Papacy) -Roman Catholic Church

Rev 2:26-27 ...to him I will give power over the nations-- 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron;

Ruling with Christ during the Millennium Reign of Christ

2. Sardis-The Church of the Reformation - Institutional Protestantism- The "Dead" Church

Rev 3:3 Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. Looking for the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ

3. Laodicea- The Church of the Apostasy The "Lukewarm" Church

Rev 3:21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. Ruling with Christ during the Millennium Reign of Christ

4. Philadelphia, The Church of the Great Missionary & Evangelical Church Movement, The "Faithful" Church

Rev 3:10. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.