

## THE PRESENT & FUTURE OF THE CHURCH Pt. 1

### I. The PRESENT STATUS of the CHURCH. (Revelation 2-3)

<i>Have Been</i>	<i>Are</i>	<i>Shall Be Hereafter</i>
<b>Ch. 1</b>	<b>Chs. 2-3</b>	<b>Chs. 4-22</b>
<b>Past</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Future</b>
<b>Christ</b>	<b>Churches</b>	<b>Consummation</b>

- What do the seven stars and seven lamp stands refer to? (1:20)
- What is the significance of these 7 Churches?
  1. They were seven \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ churches in Asia Minor.
  2. They are symbolic of \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ that exist today and have existed through the church age.
  3. They are representative of individual \_\_\_\_\_ that exist today.
- What is problematic with the historical church view?

#### 1. The Church of EPHESUS — the Church with the Fatal Flaw (Revelation 2:1-7)

a. The PROBLEM: “*you have \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ love.* (2:4b)

b. The CORRECTION (2:5):

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ *therefore from where you have fallen...*
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ — a command for a decisive change of mind and direction.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ ... “*and do the first works.*”

- What are the “*first works*”?
- Do we need to take this seriously?

#### 2. The Church of SMYRNA – the Suffering Church (Revelation 2:8-11)

a. Their PROBLEM —

b. The COMMANDS (2:10):

- 1) “*Do \_\_\_\_\_*” the coming persecution brought on by the Devil.

2) “Be \_\_\_\_\_ *until death.*”

- What would be their reward?
- Take inventory —

**3. The Church of PERGAMOS – that was Wedded to the World (Revelation 2:12-17)**

a. Their PROBLEMS — “you have those who hold the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_”  
and “the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, which thing I \_\_\_\_\_.”

b. The CORRECTION was to decisively and urgently to \_\_\_\_\_. (2:16)

- If not, what would be the consequence?
- Take inventory —

**4. The Church of THYATIRA – that Tolerated False Teaching (Revelation 2:18-29)**

a. Their PROBLEM – tolerating a \_\_\_\_\_. (2:20)

b. The CORRECTION – \_\_\_\_\_. (2:21-23)

c. The COMMAND (2:25) is only to “\_\_\_\_\_ *what you have till I come.*”  
(2:24-25)

- Take inventory —

**5. The Church of SARDIS – which was Dead and Dying (Revelation 3:1-6)**

a. The PROBLEM — “you have a name that you are alive, but you are \_\_\_\_\_.” (3:1)

b. The COMMANDS (3:2-3)

1. “Be \_\_\_\_\_” — wake up spiritually!

2. “\_\_\_\_\_ *the things that remain*” — establish the remnant!

3. “\_\_\_\_\_ *therefore how you have received and heard*” — remember God’s  
grace to you!

4. “\_\_\_\_\_” — guard the truth you have!

5. “\_\_\_\_\_” — have a change of heart!

- How does a church die?
- How does all of this apply to you?