

REVELATION 2 - 3

Notes: THE KEY TO REVELATION chapters 2 and 3

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7 churches of Revelation are typical of what will be until the Gentile time ends; which means they exist today! Only 2 need not reconsider: evidence they are THE TRUE CHURCH Jesus is building; who the 5 others are is a mystery, Daniel says, they will go through great testing.

What is the meaning of chapters 2 and 3?

That is a very good question... any good student would want to know; and don't you sometimes wonder: where have all the good teachers gone?

The fact that Jesus could have told His followers about 31,000 different denominations in the last days calling themselves Christian, Protestant, Evangelical or other names, even Christianity, more like Churchianity who leave Christ standing outside the door; whether they follow Him or not. What Jesus said was helpful information, but that would not have been helpful. When Jesus said there would be 7 churches they were surprised by so many; since they only knew the ONE church Jesus said was His, that He is building.



Jesus Christ, the Messiah, The Logos / The Word who was in the beginning, came and lived among us.

No other great teacher, ancient or modern, from East to West... and there have been so many... from Abraham, Buddha, Confucius... to Moses and Zoroaster... and all the lesser known great teachers throughout the history of the world... no other has impacted history over the last 5,000 years... in a similar way as Jesus of Nazareth: only Jesus gave prophecies, only Jesus called God our Father.

Dr. Dallas Willard of USC -- our philosophy professor, said: The standard of knowledge is: **truth and proper evidence** (4 simple words; 2 of them very unscientific).

Jesus said, I will build My church... -- **Matthew 16**. What is he building? It is something that belongs to Him. This word used only by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew... and then mentioned 113 times after His arose; in the book of Acts to here in the Revelation, mostly by Paul and John: **Peter never used the word.**

Jesus said, I will build My church... this statement is like any statement a student in search of truth would want to know, as confidently as we know anything. **This statement is either true or false.**

Any good **students** -- the Greek word is: **mathetes**... literally, the ones doing the math... putting together the information: 1 + 1 + 1... like a group of first graders they are learning their lessons... they want to know are they listening to a good Teacher or a bad Teacher?

The students of Jesus heard Him teach many lessons... and they saw Him do many marvelous things... and they were constantly challenged to ask themselves:

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These statements are either true or false. The religious leaders of the day concluded His lessons were false; which is why they wanted to kill Him.

Jesus, the good Teacher also said, **metanoia and pisteuo** -- translated: repent and believe... but those words no longer represent what He really taught.

We know the word: **metaphor, meta = change + phor = form.**

Jesus said: **meta = change...** so the students were supposed to change something. Change what? Well, **noia = mind...** and Jesus the good Teacher, who makes things clear, said in His first assignment to His first grade students: **change your mind**; something they only can do; and I bet He said it with a smile because Jesus knew: **without a changed mind... there would be no changed heart.**

Jesus said, **rethink, reconsider...** and **pisteuo**, another Greek **verb...** so it's an action word, it's not just sitting around thinking about something... but added to our changed thinking is action;

Jesus wanted His students to start walking!

Dr. Dallas Willard said, In any subject matter, the responsibility to teach falls on those who have the corresponding knowledge; and it has nothing to do with certificates and obtaining pieces of paper from some college or university with your name on it.

If you have knowledge on a matter of great importance to others (notice, we are talking about knowledge, not about opinions and strong feelings), if you know how to cure cancer... if you know the house is on fire... you must share your knowledge... so that those who need the information can act accordingly. And though we can stay silent, the unwritten, inalienable norm says: we must not withhold our information.

Jesus, who had been talking to His class about being a slave to money, and pursuing things like: what we're going to eat, or what we're going to wear... He undoubtedly wanted them to change their thinking,

Jesus could have stayed silent, since His vocabulary might have a difficult time resonating in the sophisticated minds of 21st century scholars and college class passers... sinking in science and research... because Jesus taught lessons **of the heart**. And we know, **that is not a topic of good science...** where things observed through microscopes or telescopes are counted and commented on.

Jesus taught about God his Father who is spirit -- so He is a non-physical, unbodily Person, who we will never see, [who must be worshiped in spirit and in truth](#). Jesus is teaching where: love, and joy and peace... where mercy and grace intersect individuals. He is talking about those **who have a heart**. Now, some might object and say those things really don't exist; but as Henry Drummond said years ago, believe them. They are telling the truth about themselves. I guess we would say: someone who has no heart... **is heartless!**

But will they say that about themselves? Or are they just playing games?

I don't know.

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Jesus, the good Teacher said, **Seek first the kingdom of God** (where love and joy and peace abound)

And all the little things will be added unto you.

These statements are either true, or false;

and His students wanted to know.

As the Word got out to the surrounding communities... **His first grade class simply continued to grow**... not just with the poor, but also the rich; not just the illiterate, but also the highly educated. They all gathered... because no one spoke like Him. He spoke with authority and not what they peddled in the local schools or worship centers; it was as if what He said, and what He did... were out of this world! Wow!

Deism, from the latin word for God; and **Theism**, from the Greek word for God... both terms emerged in the philosophic debates of higher critics in Europe in the 1600s. Similar discussions have been around for millennia; from Norse culture, Greek culture to Egyptian, African, Middle Eastern, Indian, and Asian cultures and all the others, discussions about monotheism -- about the one God... or about many gods have existed. In every part of the globe, these mindsets have lived side by side: those who believe in one God, those who believe in many gods or demi-gods; and whatever everybody else believes.

Deism, a system of thought advocating natural religion, emphasizing morality, and denying the Creator can interfere with the laws of the universe He created. Historically, this system of thought is embraced by the roman church, the Jesuit community and others, for example: Thomas Jefferson was a deist.

Theism, a system of thought advocating one God, who emphasizes morality, and affirming the Creator interferes with the laws of the universe He created. Historically, this system of thought is embraced by the protestant / evangelical church and others. King David, who said **the Lord is my shepherd** was a theist.

Deism denies... the Creator interferes with His creation.

Theism affirms... the Creator interferes with His creation.

One of these statements is true, the other is false; and His students wanted to know.

In 1920, Dr. H.A. Ironsides who was a theist wrote: God has been pleased to give us here a prophetic history of the church for the entire dispensation; which might be true, but God gave us so much more; because this does not mean that when the time of the Gentiles comes to an end... there will be no church gatherings. There will be lots! Gatherings centered on their favorite manmade traditions:

like **Ephesus**... (the earliest church) **those who lost their first love**... so they fell in love with? Nicolaitans, those who introduce their brand of **clerical power over where 2 or 3 gather**; institutionalizing leadership; probably singing love songs, and lively feel good songs / certainly not hate songs... singing to themselves at every service. Twice the Lord told them they needed to **change their thinking**.

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like **Pergamos**... (from 313-600s roman compromise) meaning, **bad marriage**... new and improved Nicolaitans, introducing **more power over people**; expanding their professional clerical ranks; further institutionalizing the burgeoning leadership in the community gathering; they were not the bride of Christ... instead they were married to world governments; where Satan - #1 enemy of God our Father in heaven... takes his seat, and holds office. The Lord told them they needed to **change their thinking**.

like **Thyatira**... (from 600-1500s, roman dark ages) its meaning is uncertain; with more trade-guilds than any other Asiatic city; they were sellers of purple, apparently being royalty was in vogue; so will they be nice folk with pet-projects? The Lord says: I know thy works: plural, so I want to know: what does a faithless whore do, other than...? Three times the Lord says she needs to **change her thinking**.

like **Sardis**... (from 1500-1700, reformation period) those who were reformed, alive and watchful, but have lost faith and fallen asleep; The Lord says, they need to **change their thinking**.

like **Laodicea**... (from 1800s to the present; the last expression / so the worst expression of the church) meaning, **laity = people + dice = power**; the people powered church, where consensus of sheep is highly valued... behind **a closed door**... while the Lord of glory stands outside their door... knocking, but assuredly they think they are in need of nothing: the first church of ___ and fill in the blank! To them, the Lord says, **change your thinking**.

Notice the poetic chiasmus...

the **1st** and **7th** churches are in **grave danger**; they need well not ~~repent~~ ...an awful word that actually means: to **re-pain**. Remember: **Jesus like a good first grade teacher**, said they needed a **metanoia moment**, and again... **meta = change + noia = mind**; they needed to **rethink**... to change what they thought they knew! Jesus, the good Pastor knows **only a changed mind... leads to a changed heart!**

Notice: the **2nd** and **6th** churches the Lord did not remind to metanoia; it's what they knew to do.

Smyrna... under brutal Roman government, whose name means: **crushing**; they were thankful to the Lord... in order to survive, they learned to **change their mind**... and helped each other to remember all the Lord taught them through the first students. Polycarp, a student of John... along with many were martyred at **Smyrna**... where they hardly had time to think, being crushed by Rome; and though Deists do not believe, but Theists do, Daniel says, **Rome will be hard as iron, crushing until the whole world is broken**... which is what we see in the local and international news... happening today.

Philadelphia, (mid-1700s; outreach to the world increases) whose name means: **brotherly love**, they had **an open door**... though weak, they had love for one another... and they in fact did what the Teacher repeatedly asked His students to do the night He was betrayed, -- guarding the information needed to act: **they kept the word of His endurance on their hearts; and did not deny His name**.

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Doing their assignment, the Teacher promised: Because you kept My word, I will keep you from the terrible test which will come upon all the world... to test them who dwell upon the earth; which is what Paul, who was a theist said to those he did not want to be ignorant.

God has not appointed us unto wrath, but to obtain salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord --
1Thessalonians 5.

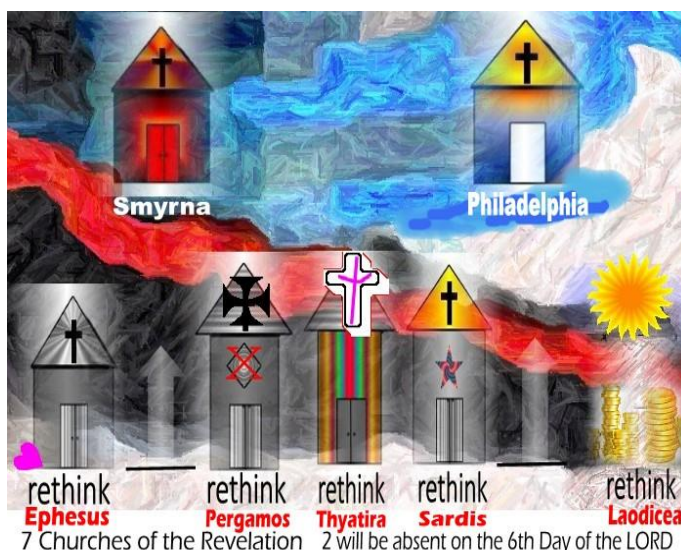
This statement is either true or false;

and His students wanted to know.

the 3rd, 4th, and 5th churches are **problematic**, some say neither good, nor bad... which definitely means they are **a mess**: they have a mixed bag of very important people, along with hard heads, and unruly jackasses, yet they still have a few who haven't wandered so far... who still need to wake up!

The skeletons of: **Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia...** and **Laodicea...** will all be attending their worship services as the time of the Gentiles comes to its conclusion.

When the trumpet sounds one day on the 5th great Day of the Lord, the Feast of Trumpets (when? Soon; this year? Or maybe next?) and the dead in Christ will rise first, then Smyrna and Philadelphia: those who remain in the blink of an eye, will be grabbed up... forever to be with the Lord... for God has not appointed us to wrath...



while **Ephesus, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis...** and **Laodicea** will all be attending their worship services; who Daniel said will be whitened and brightened, so they will be taken to the cleaners as the heat is turned up.

When the Son of Man comes with power and great glory **on the 6th great Day belonging to the Lord, the Day of wrath!** When the Lord will once again shake the heavens and the earth... and will get the attention of many... who probably will stop singing in their congregation... and will either run or climb under their pews rather quickly!

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