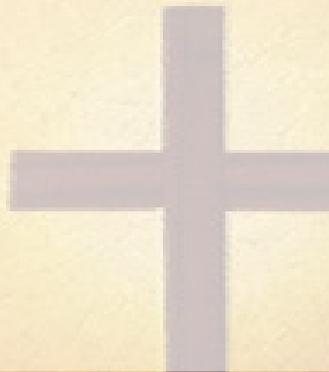
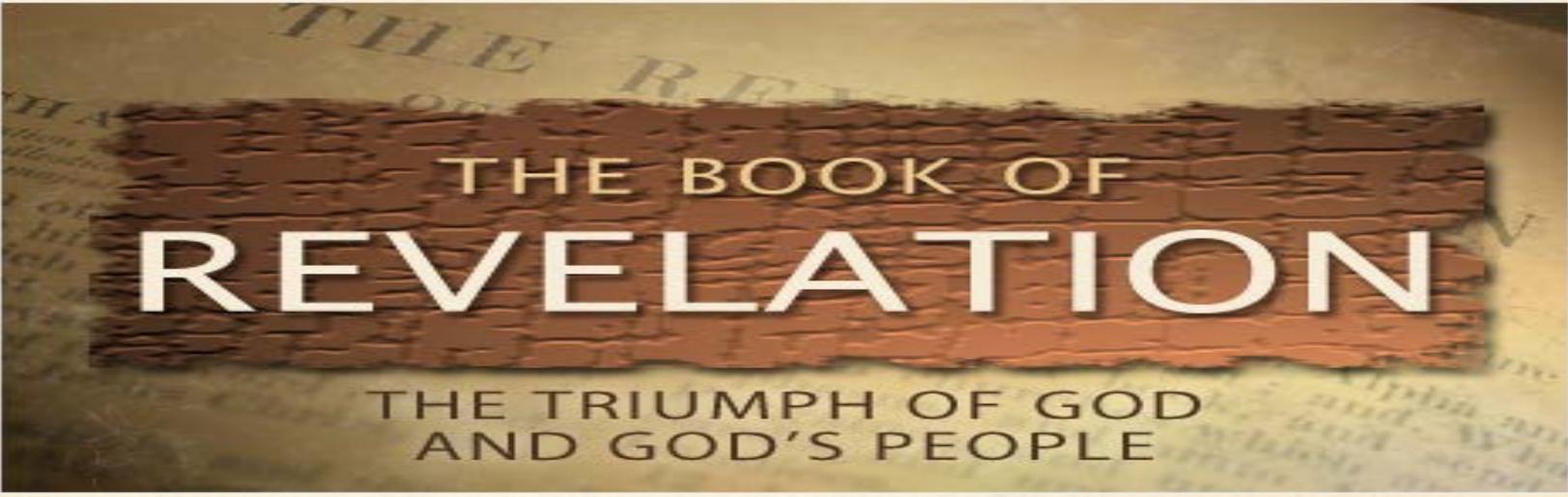


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Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 1-2



Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Where is the river of life flowing from?

From the throne of God and Jesus

How do you picture this in your mind?



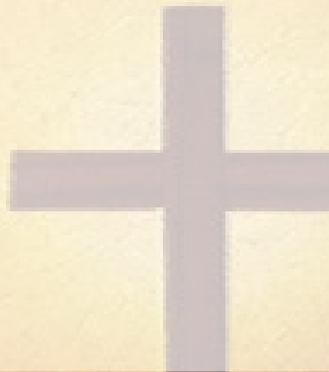
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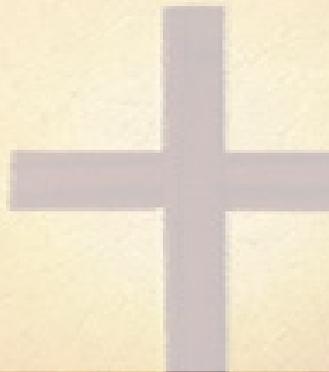


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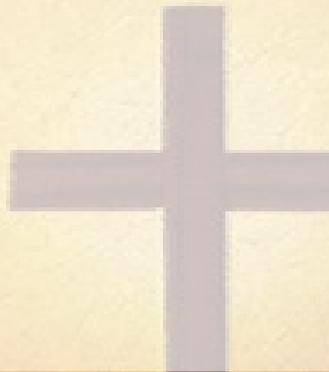


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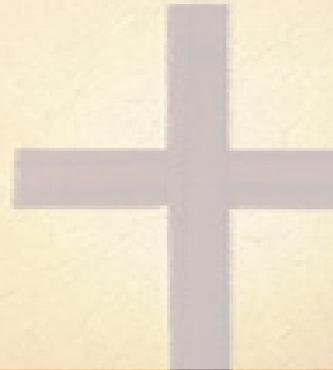
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Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 3-5

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... to Pergamum, to ...
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... 12. Then I ...
... was at ...

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.



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What is this curse?

Genesis 3: 14-19



So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring[a] and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

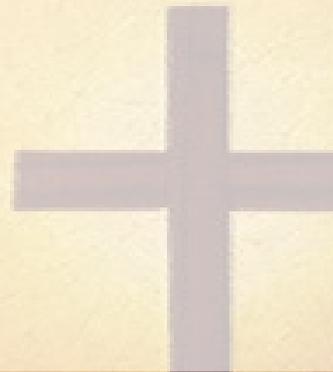
By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

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This is telling us there will be no more pain, no more child birth, no more laboring and toil, no more satan, no more death and no more sin!



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This will be a great honor to see the face of God.
Moses wanted to do this, but was only able to
see God's trail where he once was.



Exodus 13: 18-23

Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

Then the Lord said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”

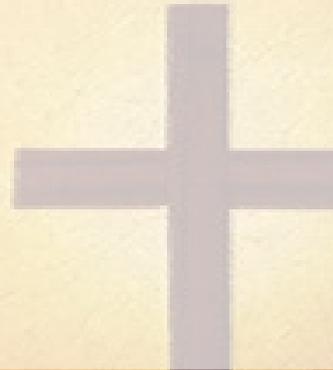
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Do you think you will have God's name on your
forehead?

Most agree that this is a reference to ownership
more than an actual mark. It may be some type
of seal, sign or halo but it could also simply
mean that you are identified as being one of
God's children.

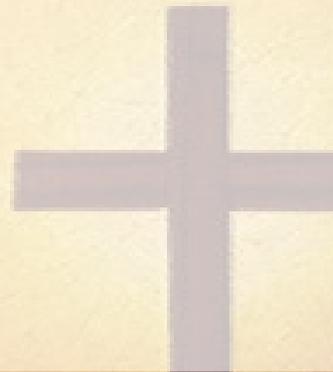


Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 6



The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”





These words are trustworthy
and true.



What does this mean to you?

This is telling us that the events described by John in Revelation will happen. These words are Truth. We will one day see these events unfold and will be looking into the face of God in paradise for all eternity with no pain, no sorrow, no death and only pure joy and worship of God!



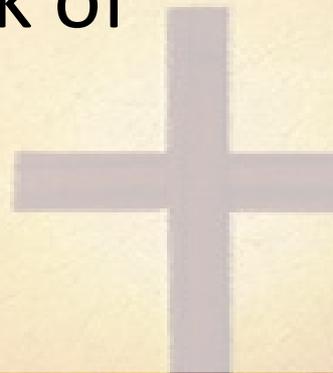


sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”



Who are his servants?

We are. Again this is reassuring us that this will happen, although the judgement will be terrible for those who Christ does not know, it will be a time of great joy and excitement for us as Christians. Everyone needs to make sure that their names are written in the Lambs Book of Life!



Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 7



Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

How do you keep the words of the prophecy found in the Book of Revelation?

- Follow what Jesus tells us about the Churches
- Warn others about what is coming
- Walk Godly lives
- Pray for and prepare for Christ’s return



Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 8-9

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”

We see John again so overwhelmed he falls at the feet of an angel, who again reminds him not to worship him but to worship God, or he could be recalling this since he is speaking in past tense.

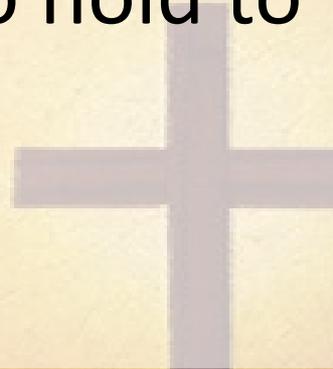


Revelation 19: 9-10



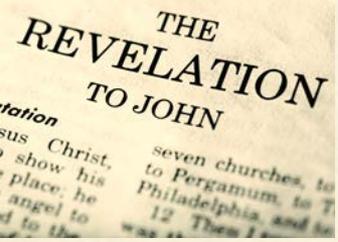
Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!

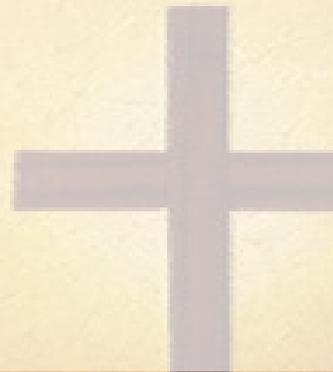


Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 10-11



Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”



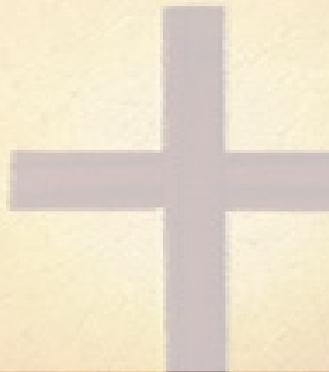
THE
REVELATION
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THE
REVELATION
TO JOHN

“Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near”

What does this mean to you?

We are to share the words, encouragement and warnings in Revelation and not hide the words because the prophetic events found in this book can begin at any time. Maybe today!



“Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”

What does this mean to you?

This is the end. Everything would be fixed and unchanging from here into eternity; that all who were then found to be righteous would remain so forever; and that none who were unrepentant, impure, and wicked, would ever change their character or condition. This is the final eternal condition of the righteous and the wicked.



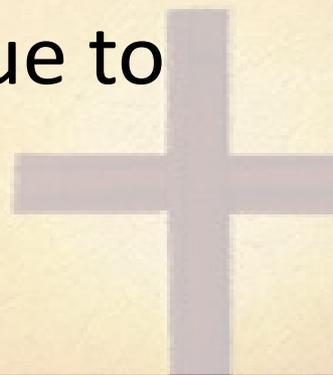


Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 10-11



Then he told me, “(Share these scriptures with others)-Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of the Book of Revelation, because the time is near and these events can start at any time, without warning. In the end the one who does wrong will continue to do wrong; the vile person will continue to be vile; the one who does right will continue to do right; and the holy person will continue to be holy throughout eternity”



Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 12-13

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

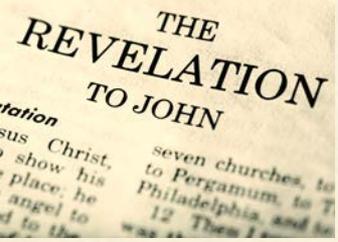
Who is speaking here?

Jesus Christ

What is Jesus saying he will be doing?

Judging those who he does not know and rewarding those whom he does.

Do you think he will give more rewards to some and less to others?



Matthew 6: 19-21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

How do you store up your treasures or rewards in heaven?



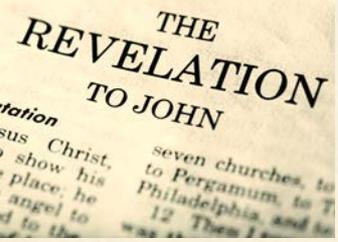
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Matthew 16:24-27

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Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.





Hear What God is Telling Us

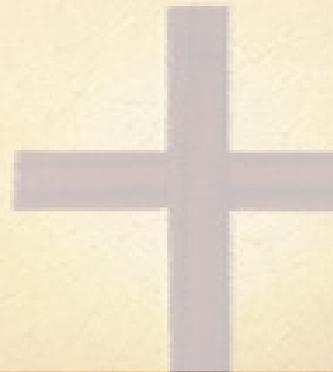
Revelation 22: 14



“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”

Who is the gate?

Jesus Christ





Jesus is the Gate



John 10:9

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."



Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 15

Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

Who is this describing?

The lost in Hell. They will not have access to Heaven.

How are they referred to?

Dogs

Note magic arts are translated from the word for sorcery which is φαρμακοὶ (pharmakoi)



Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 16



“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

Who does Jesus say Revelation is to be written for?

Center Christian Church



Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 17

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

Who is the Spirit?

The Holy Spirit

Who is the Bride?

The Church.

Who is the one who hears?

Christians

This demonstrates how each one of us, and together as a Church, are united with the Holy Spirit in evangelizing the world to come drink of the free gift of water of eternal life found only in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 18-19

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this book.

What is this telling us?

Not to change scripture. This is the final chapter of the Bible. It is complete and nothing will be added or taken away.

Do you think this applies to all scripture?

Yes. Society cannot change scripture. We must follow the words of God, regardless. It is vital that we are Biblically correct, even when it conflicts with being politically correct.

Hear What God is Telling Us

Revelation 22: 20-21

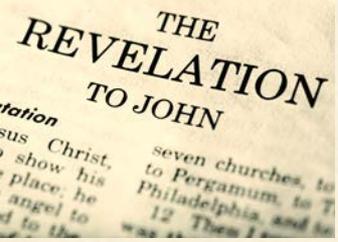
He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

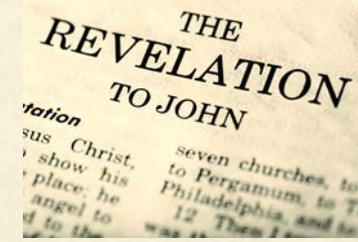
We just read the last spoken words of Jesus. “*Yes, I am coming soon.*” What is Jesus telling us with his last words?

We will be seeing him soon, without warning so we must not wait to share His Truths and we must be ready and looking for Him.

Notice John’s Amen. Which means “This is True”



The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people.



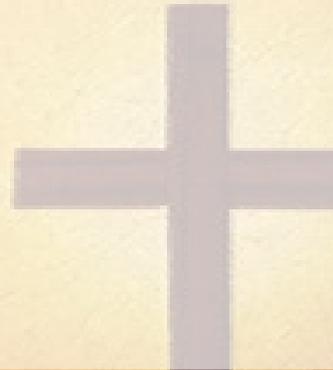
What motivates you to strive for Godliness?

What is grace?

Webster defines it as:

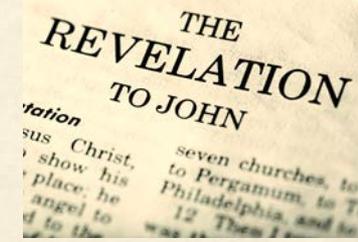
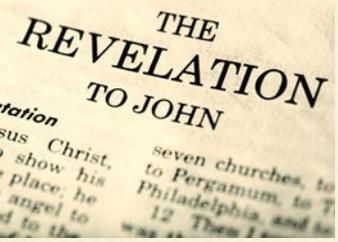
*Unmerited divine assistance given humans for
their regeneration or sanctification.*

Let's look at how Titus explains it



Titus 3: 3-8

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.



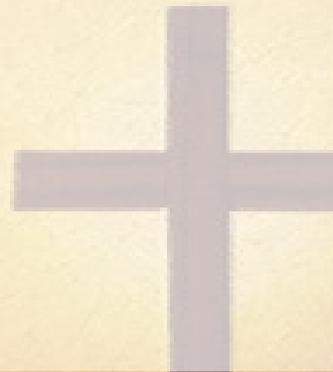
Summary

The book of Revelation can be broken down into 3 sections:

Past-Chapter 1

Present-Chapters 2-3

Future-Chapters 4-22



Letters to the Churches



City	Complement	Criticism
<i>Ephesus</i> <i>(2:1-7)</i>	Works, labor, patience, cannot bear evil or false apostles, hate Nicolaitans.	Left their first love.
<i>Smyrna</i> <i>(2:8-11)</i>	Works, tribulation, poverty.	—
<i>Pergamos</i> <i>(2:12-17)</i>	Works, Hold fast Jesus' name, not denied the faith.	Hold the doctrine of Balaam and the Nicolaitans.

City	Complement	Criticism
<i>Thyratira</i> <i>(2:18-29)</i>	Works, charity, service, faith, growth in works.	Tolerated false prophet, Jezebel, to teach immorality and idolatry.
<i>Sardis</i> <i>(3:1-6)</i>	Works, a name (reputation) of being alive...	...but are dead.
<i>Philadelphia</i> <i>(3:7-13)</i>	Works, kept Jesus' word, not denied His Name.	—
<i>Laodicea</i> <i>(3:14-22)</i>	—	Lukewarm, neither cold nor hot. Wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked.

Chapter 2: Verses 1-3

Ephesus

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.



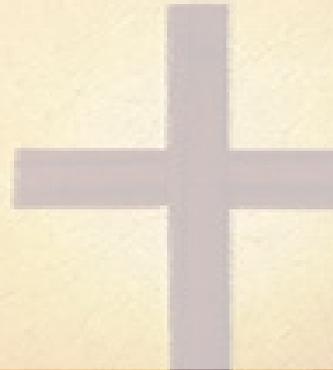
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*you cannot tolerate wicked
people*

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What is Jesus telling us that this Church is doing right and we must also do here at CCC?

I don't think it is just a coincidence that the same word (wicked) used here is also used in Genesis 19:4-8.



*you cannot tolerate wicked
people*

Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old—surrounded the house. They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.”

Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him and said, “No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing.”



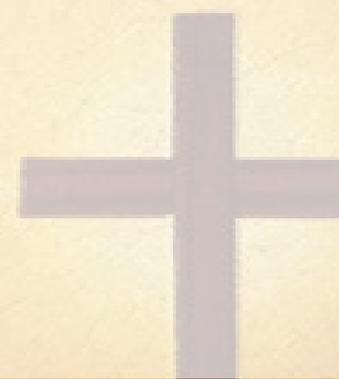
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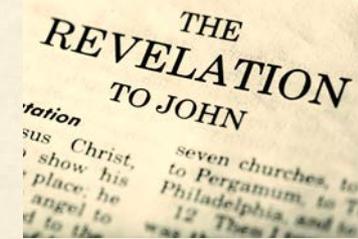
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... to the ... was at ...

What does it mean to not tolerate?

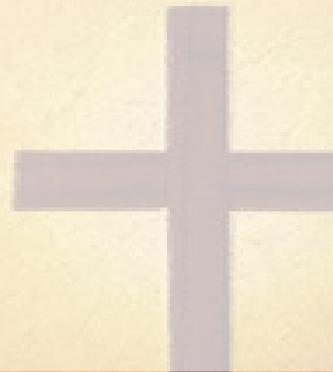
We must understand the importance of these two chapters to us today. Jesus is telling us the Church is to be intolerant. It is vital for Churches to understand this as this is extremely counter-culture in our society today.

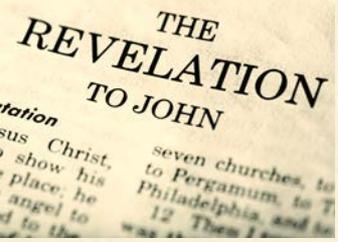




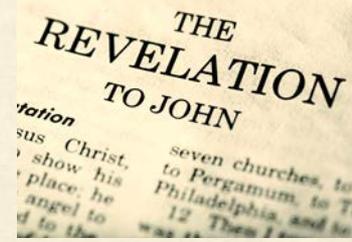
Chapter 2: Verses 4-6

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.





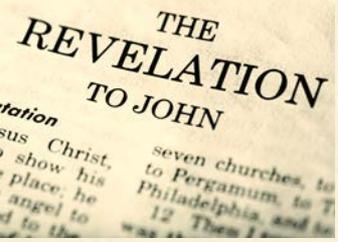
Nicolaitans



Roman church historian Eusebius writes that Nicolas' fundamental doctrine appears to have been "the flesh must be treated with contempt."

Over the years, however, this teaching took on a more Gnostic spin: Since the flesh is unimportant, even contemptible, what one does in the flesh is of no consequence. Spiritual life, growth and ultimately salvation occur in the soul, and since God is spirit, He has no regard for the flesh. Therefore Nicolaitans believed that it does not matter if one satisfies the flesh's desires.





Nicolaitans



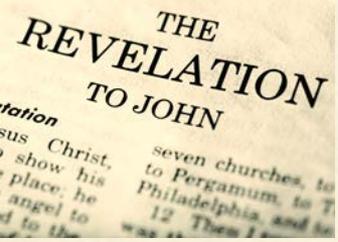
According to the writings of the Early Church leaders, the Nicolaitans were also so immersed in occultism, Judaism, and Christianity that they had no problem intermingling these belief systems in various concoctions and saw no reason why believers couldn't continue to practice their sexually immoral behavior associated with these beliefs.

Clement of Alexander wrote the following about the Nicolaitans: *"They abandoned themselves to pleasure like goats, leading a life of self-indulgence."*

Nicolaitans

We know that Jesus hated their practice so it clearly a behavior we must also hate.

I would suggest we consider the Nicolaitans as referencing a religious doctrine claiming to be Christian that has become corrupted by society or other religions to accept or practice ungodly behavior. The Nicolaitans live in the world like those who do not know Christ, yet they go to church on Sunday and claim to be Christians.



Chapter 2: Verses 14-16

Pergamum



Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: you have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.



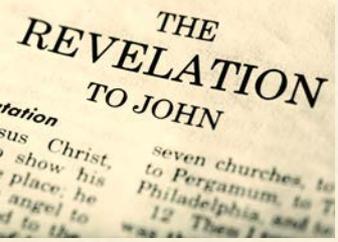
THE
REVELATION
TO JOHN
seven churches, to
to Pergamum, to
Philadelphian, and to
12. Then I

*I have a few things against you: you
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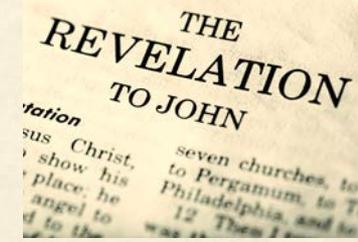
The story of Balaam is found in Numbers 24:1-25. Balaam was sent by Balak, the king of Moab, to curse Israel but God caused Balaam to pronounce blessings on them. Balaam then instructed Balak to lay a stumbling block before them. He did this by using the Moabitish women to tempt the Israelites to commit immoral sexual acts with them and to feast with them in their idols' temples eating their meat that was offered to their idols.





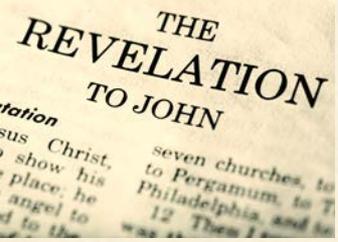
Chapter 2: Verses 20-23

Thyatira

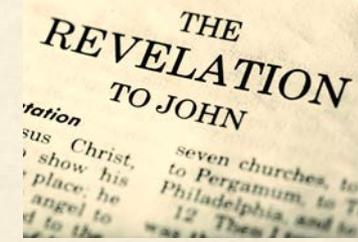


Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.





Jezebel



The city of Thyatira was a city full of tradesmen. Each trade had a guild or what we would call a union today.

Each guild had a god over their guild. As a member of the guild you were required to offer food as a sacrifice to your god and to participate in sexual perversion during celebrations of your god. If you did not do this you would lose your job.

Jezebel taught that you could be a Christian and also partake in the sinful acts of the guilds so you would not lose your job.

I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.

Note this is unrepentant sin. This is a warning to churches who allow society to infiltrate the church by making the church accepting of immoral or idolatrous lifestyles.

This church has an internal cancer of sin that is not repentant.

Note that God has given her time to repent out of His compassion, however she is unwilling to repent. She believes her ways are right and the Word of God is wrong.

Chapter 3: Verses 1-3

Sardis

“To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.

Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not repent, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.



I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.



This Church is not praised at all but the letter opens with condemnation.

What is a reputation?

How you are viewed by those around you.

What is Jesus saying here?

I think Jesus is saying this church appears to the world as alive, but it is dead in the eyes of Christ. This is a liberal church defiled by the world so it appears alive to the world due to its popularity, but is dead to Christ. This is the most popular of all the Churches.

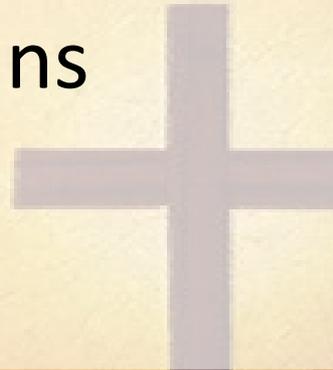
What is a dead church?

A dead church is one that has succumbed to the pressures of the world

Sardis has:

- Left its first love like Ephesus
- Courted the world like Pergamum
- Tolerated sin and even advocated it like Thyatira

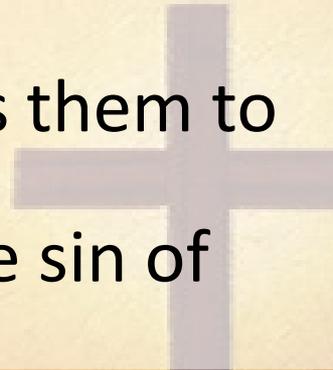
And due to the false teachings this church is full of people who we will see are not Christians



What are the characteristics of a dead church?

A dead church is one that:

- Is concerned with tradition and form
- Is concerned with social issues and not spiritual issues
- Is concerned about material things
- Is concerned about being tolerant
- Is more concerned about being politically correct than Biblically Correct
- Doesn't uphold scripture and is not concerned about holiness or Biblical doctrine
- Is concerned about its appearance
- Is concerned about being popular
- Accepts unbelievers as members and even allows them to hold leadership positions in the church
- Preaches the love of God but does not preach the sin of man



THE
REVELATION
TO JOHN
... seven churches, to
... Pergamum, to
... Philadelphia, and to
... 12. Then I

Revelation 3:14-17

Laodicea

THE
REVELATION
TO JOHN
... seven churches, to
... Pergamum, to
... Philadelphia, and to
... 12. Then I

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:
These are the words of the Amen, the faithful
and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I
know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor
hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So,
because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor
cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.
You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and
do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that
you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”



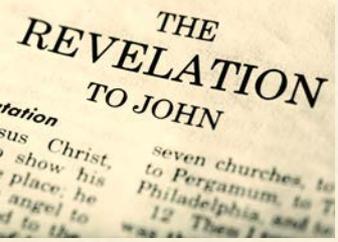
*I know your deeds, that you are
neither cold nor hot.*



What does this mean to you?

This is another example of a church that has allowed society to influence it rather than the church influencing society. As a result of this influence the church doctrine has become watered down which is useless to Christ.





Closing



I close our study with John's prayer.

Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with Center Christian Church and the rest of God's people. Amen.

