

The 7 churches of The Revelation, 1 of 4

Hi all,

The Lord's messages to the 7 churches in The Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, have been understood in different ways for centuries. Some of what the Lord says seems very harsh, including a threat to one church to blot their names from the Book of Life.

They are filled with cultural references that we, over 1900 years later, miss. Some understand the 7 as church ages, with our time being the last, the time of Laodicia, the rich church that thought it needed nothing. This series is not about debating views, but will focus on the cultural elements which when understood, make for an 'ah ha' moment and 'now that makes sense'.

The situation

In The Revelation 1:10 the apostle John, who has been exiled to the island of Patmos, off the coast of modern Turkey, has a visitation from the Lord. More than that, he says "I was in the Spirit" and saw the Lord in glory. He uses the same term later, in 4:2 when he was 'in the Spirit and heard a voice saying, Come up here' and was taken to heaven.

There in chapter 4, he saw the Father on His throne, with the rainbow over it, the clear flooring before it, and the cherubs crying out 'Holy, Holy, Holy' around Him. In chapter 5 he sees the Lamb that had been slain but is now alive, 'take the book out of the right hand of Him who sits on the throne' - so we see the Father in chapter 4, and the Lord in chapter 5, given the scrolls and opening them one by one, which is the rest of The Revelation of Jesus 'which the Father gave to Him'. (1:1)

Being 'in the Spirit' can mean a couple things, including being taken away out of one's body in the Spirit realm to heaven, or seeing the Lord in glory - a glory that might kill the frail earth body if a person were to see the Lord in glory. Moses we are told spoke to God face to face as a man speaks to a friend, and clearly he was 'in the Spirit' when that happened. Later, in the flesh, he had to be physically moved to a cleft in a rock to shield himself from the glory of the Lord. Paul wrote in II Corinthians 12:2 that when he went to heaven he didn't know if he was in his body or out of his body. Such is the way of being 'in the Spirit'.

When you are 'in the Spirit' our earth body is not a factor and you can experience things you wouldn't be able to if you remained in your body. One day we will receive glorified bodies, which Paul explained in I Corinthians 15, which are made of heavenly material in a higher state of existence, so can handle the unshielded glory of God. As the apostle John wrote in I John 3:2: "...we will see Him as He is" on that day.

John sees the Lord in glory

John says in 1:11 he was 'in the Spirit' and heard a voice behind him - the Lord in glory - saying, "What you see, write it down and send to the 7 churches in Asia: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicia."

In v16-18 the Lord says "I am the one who was dead but now is alive forevermore" and that He held 7 stars in His right hand. The significance of this is that the Emperor Domitian had issued a coin that had an image of his dead son. He claimed to talk to his dead son in seance's and issued a coin showing his dead son holding 7 stars, which stood for the 7 main regions Rome had conquered. So when John sees Jesus and He says "I was the One who was dead but am now alive forevermore", and He has 7 stars in His right hand, it is an 'in your face' rebuke to the Emperor and assurance to the believers the True and Living King is theirs!

Chapter 2:1-7 is the letter to Ephesus

Acts 19 records the amazing things that happened in Ephesus. It was the principle city of a Roman state in modern Turkey known as 'Asia'. It was a small state on the western-central coast, and the 7 principle cities are the ones the letters are directed to.

When he first went to Ephesus Paul found about 12 men who he assumed were believers, but they told him they had only heard of John the Baptist. Paul had asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit since they believed - showing us that even then there was often a time gap between being born again and receiving the Holy Spirit. I find it amazing that upon first meeting these men, that's what Paul is most concerned with - have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed? It was important to him, maybe a good point for us as well.

Paul ended up teaching in a school for 2 years, and the Word spread throughout the state of Asia. That region had a 'siesta' from about 11am until 4pm (16:00), so most likely that is when Paul taught. People were so zealous for the Lord they burned their books on the occult, and caused a huge disruption in the economy.

The estimate is that Ephesus had about 250,000 people, and it is beautiful even in ruins. The temple to Diana was one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world. Covered and tiled sidewalks with inlaid mosaics, a 24,000 seat amphitheater which has been used even in modern times (Elton John and Sting played there, and it's still in use today). When they burned their occult books a riot ensued with many gathered in the amphitheater demanding answers. Paul wanted to address them but had to be taken out of town for his own safety.

With 250,000 people in the city, I've seen estimates that for the economy to have been affected to the point a riot broke out, about 10% or 25,000 people were probably believers. That's huge! Paul's later letters to Timothy were about organizing resources among the (house) churches of the day, and how to raise up leaders, dealing with those in need and much more. If we allow 50 people per house church, that's 500 house churches they had to organize, with some becoming full time in ministry serving and coordinating resources for all the needs.

Timothy died in Ephesus in the year 97, shortly after John was exiled to Patmos. He preached to a crowd who then turned on him and beat him severely, and he died 2 days later from his injuries.

It is shortly after his death that John receives a word from the Lord for Ephesus: "You've lost your first love. Repent." Get it back. You're doing good things, but in your heart, repent and put me back on the throne of your heart, in so many words. He said to remember the former days, and that is good instruction for us. Religion makes us 'human doings' instead of 'human beings'. And that is what Ephesus was guilty of - in their hearts they had lost their first love even while doing good things for others. On the outside all looked good, but the Lord sees the heart.

He also commended them for hating the teaching of the Nicolaitanes, which He also hates. That word has been debated for centuries, for it means 'victory of/over the people'. The company Nike and the name Nicolas have the same root - thus 'victory' (nike) over the or of the people' (laity) - nicolaitane.

This would suggest it was about a growing tendency to form a hierarchy, taking authority and participation away from the people. It would complicate their simple home gatherings, transforming them closer to the auditorium structure of today - into a 1 person speaks at each meeting with a few others with authority to do so as well. And some without that authority to participate. It could be argued that tendency towards hierarchy came into fullness when Christianity was legalized about 200 years later. Constantine took over pagan temples and turned them into buildings for the people of God, called people out of the home meetings - that new structure required such a hierarchy like the pagans for such a structure.

Jesus threatened to take away their candlestick unless they repented. He would shut the church down if they continued in their error - that was the threat. Ephesus was indeed destroyed in 262 by the Goths, and later abandoned when its harbor silted up. It is in ruins today.

The take aways are that they had lost the zeal in their hearts for the Lord while still doing 'Christian' things. They (perhaps) were becoming lazy, allowing selected individuals tell them what God was saying rather than the participation oriented house church format of sharing what He was doing in their hearts. Jesus concludes His instructions in 2:7: "Let him who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches..."

The same is true in our day - some would have no doubt read the letter John sent to them, and repented. Others 'didn't have an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying', and went about their business as usual. For us, don't stir up guilt or condemnation or self-doubt for that's not in you by the Spirit. The Lord convicts, not condemns. Conviction is all about God and brings us to Him. Condemnation is all about you and drives you away from God.

More cities, more lessons to glean next week....until then, blessings,
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The 7 churches of The Revelation 2 of 4

Hi all,

Last week we covered Ephesus, who had experienced a great zeal documented in Acts 19. But the Lord's message to them less than 50 years later, found a church full of religious works but little zeal. But they did hate the teachings of the Nicolaitanes, which the Lord also hates - He told them to stop just going through the motions, remember their past zeal and repent, and gain that zeal again. Remember, they met in homes, so even then, in their small groups, some were losing their zeal for the Lord.

The Lord's second message was to Smyrna. In The Revelation 2:8-11 it's just 4 verses long - that's it. Yet one of the most important men and quotes in all Christianity came out of Smyrna.

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things says the First and the Last, which was dead, and is alive; 9 I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you are rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue (gathering) of Satan. 10 Fear none of those things which you will suffer: behold, the devil will cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested; and you will have tribulation ten days: be faithful to death, and I will give you a crown of life. 11 He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He that overcomes will not be hurt of the second death."

Smyrna is modern Izmir, about 35 miles north of Ephesus. Smyrna was the birthplace of Homer, had a 20,000 seat amphitheater, and was a port city with about 100,000 people at the time The Revelation was written. It had a large Jewish population in the midst of Roman gods and goddess, and as they did with Paul's ministry, the zealous Jews stirred persecution against Christians. (synagogue of Satan)

The 10 days of persecution has been understood several ways, including the 10 year reign of terror under Diocletian. But some have recognized the number 10 is a number of completion, like we use it today - a '10' is the best something can be. It is no coincidence the word Smyrna is derived from myrrh, which was used in embalming at that time - it is bitter to the taste but sweet smelling - so this encouragement from the Lord includes a statement their trouble won't last past 10 years - there will be a limit to their troubles. It is merely a season of persecution, then rest will come. But He does mention being faithful unto death, playing on the myrrh root word of Smyrna.

Smyrna is most known for Polycarp, one of the most important leaders who lived during and after the apostle John. Polycarp lived from 69-155AD, meaning he was born after Paul and Peter had died, but was an apostle of John, and was martyred roughly 50 years after his mentor's death.

At this time, very often the local governments were more bloodthirsty than was Rome, so Christians were often given an opportunity to renounce their faith. Polycarp's statement when given the opportunity remains a pillar for Christians:

"Eighty and six years I have served Him. How can I blaspheme my Lord and King?"

With that, he was tied to a stake and they lit the fires - but he wouldn't burn - the glory of the Lord was seen on his face. Finally, a soldier took a long spear and stabbed him through the flames, ending his life. The Lord's message to the church was do not fear, even unto death, and He who was dead but is alive forever more, will give you the crown of Life. Amen! Remember too one of the gifts the wise men brought baby Jesus was myrrh, a reference to His own future death. (Matthew 2:11)

Pergamos; The Revelation 2:12-17

"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. 15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. 17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

Pergamos was the home of Emperor worship, (Satan's throne) and its governor had authority to execute judgement on the enemies of Rome - including Christians. Roman citizens were executed with a 2 edge sword: This is why the Lord said He is the one with the two-edge sword - the true Judge and executor of justice.

The Lord had issues with the believers in the city, including holding to the teachings of the Nicolaitanes, 'victory over the people' which created a hierarchy of leaders, taking participation out of the hands of the people.

There were some who put stumbling blocks before the people, specifically making sacrifice to gods and goddesses and the sexual visits to the temple prostitutes that went with it. We will look at Thyatira next week who had the same teaching - they taught a person could be a Christian while still participating in offerings to idols and sexual sin. That is what we see in our day - people teaching compromise with the world is 'okay' for the Lord loves us and is fine with it, He knows how we are - and other such things soundly rejected by the Lord.

In His last line the Lord promised to give a white stone to those who overcome with a new name written on it which no one will know but the one who receives it. This is a cultural item like the 2 edged sword reference at the start of His message.

Today we have business cards and in older times a person might receive a note or post card addressed to them. In that day when someone demonstrated hospitality by having them share a meal and spend the night in their home, the guest would give their host a white stone. The stone had their address and sometimes a short invitation or message with the intent that when their host is in the guest's city, they would stay with them.

Jesus is saying to those who overcome, they have a home with Him in His home, and the message is personalized just for them - a note of endearment, a special name or godly characteristic or message the Lord has written on it just for them. It is full circle with what Jesus said in John 14:1-2 - In my Father's house are many rooms, and I'm going to prepare a place for you..." And...for us...Amen, what a blessing.

How wonderful to know we have that invitation to visit the Lord in His home...a standing invitation, and more than that, a reservation we might say.

To Thyatira and Sardis next week, until then, blessings,
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The 7 churches of The Revelation, 3 of 4

Hi all,

So far we've seen the outward religion of Ephesus who needed to repent and regain their first love, the suffering of Smyrna who's noted leader Polycarp has provided an example for us all, and the church at Pergamos thriving in the midst of Emperor worship, though with some who had compromised with the world.

Thyatira: Compromising with the world for the sake of money

In The Revelation 2:18-29 we again have the Lord's rebuke for compromising with the world. Thyatira's compromise was to a greater degree than Pergamos because at least there, the threat was immediate death. But in Thyatira persecution was not as intense, and some believers compromised just to make money.

Just 38 miles (61km) from Pergamos we find the city on the river Hermus, along a main trading route. It was home to the cult of Apollo and the center for the dying of indigo fabric. It was also the leading city for guilds, the forerunners of modern labor unions.

The guilds were incorporated and could own property in the city, and two of the larger guilds were coppersmiths and dyers. Lydia in Philippi was from Thyatira we are told, and was a seller of purple (Acts 16:14-15). I have speculated that perhaps she left Thyatira for Philippi due to the need to

compromise with the guilds in order to do business, and found she could import the purple fabric to Philippi. We don't know, one day we can ask her.

In nearly any business contract in the city, a person had to involve a guild. Upon striking a deal, the two individuals would go to the temple for the god or goddess associated with that guild, and make sacrifice to the idol and then have sex (man or woman) with a temple prostitute to 'seal the deal' and pray it would be a 'fertile' contract. The temple prostitutes danced around a pole made into a phallic symbol, the ancient forerunner to pole dancing women in strip clubs - same pole in spirit.

There was a woman in the church the Lord nicknamed 'Jezebel' for she preached compromise like the real Jezebel (Ahab's wife) did. It would be like in modern times signing a contract and then going to a strip club to become involved with one of the dancers there - and say it's okay to do that even though you are a Christian, God wants you to make money and be blessed so He overlooks it. Wrong, the Lord said to them.

In 2:20 the Lord says He gave her 'space to repent' but she did not. She knows what she is doing, she knows what she is preaching and the false prophecies are wrong - but she continues anyway. The Lord in so many words says He is removing His hand of grace if she doesn't repent with this last opportunity, and they will experience the consequences of their actions: Sickness and pain (and STD's??)

What I find interesting is that His promise to those who have not compromised and those who repent of their compromising, will be allowed to rule nations. There is a direct connection in that now in this life they have the backbone to stand against sin, against compromise, so are found worthy to rule over others in the future - they have lived it, they know how to walk with God against the opinions and temptations of others. He promises to give them the 'morning star', which is how the Lord describes Himself in The Revelation 22:16, so He promises to give them Himself as they overcome opportunities to compromise which is all around them.

Sardis: The dead church

The city is 32 miles from Pergamos (51km) on the river Pactolus, which in ancient times had golden sand - a gold rush made the city wealthy, and the capital of ancient Lydia in the 500's BC. The world's very first gold and silver coins were made there, so it was an impressive city.

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,
'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. 3Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. 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. 4You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. 6"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The city had an upper and lower part, and when an enemy came they would climb up the cliffs to the top by a secret path, and no one could reach them. They were only conquered 2x, when enemy guards below watched someone from the upper city descend the path, inadvertently giving their secret away. The entire population was asleep both times, and it is to their history the Lord refers.

Historical note: They were so confident they could not be defeated that neither time had they even posted guards. Sardis was like that spiritually. Not 'on guard' or valuing their salvation and walk with the Lord. They ignored what they had, thinking they were set for eternity.

He says in name they are Christian, but in fact they are not. Spiritually there are a few truly born again, and He encourages them to strengthen what they have. He threatens the same fate their city suffered before - coming as a thief in the night, not knowing when He will come.

Paul used the same terminology earlier, which they would have known, when he wrote to the Thessalonians. In 1 Thessalonians 5:2 Paul says the rapture will appear to unbelievers as the Lord coming like a thief in the night to take that which doesn't belong to Him. Here the Lord uses that metaphor to point out they are unbelievers, or on the edge of walking away from Him. In verse 5 He

says to those who overcome - repent and start walking with Him - He will not blot their names out of the Book of the Living.

For those who think once saved always saved, this and other verses show that folly. That said, it was a decision that got you saved, and it takes another decision to get you 'unsaved'.

We've seen Ephesus who once had a zeal that caused a riot, faithful Smyrna with its leader Polycarp, Pergamos struggling with compromise and the rise in man-made hierarchy of the Nicolaitanes, compromising Thyatira who had a woman giving false teaching and false prophecies saying the Lord was fine with going to the pagan temples and prostitutes because the Lord wants to bless them financially, and Sardis, mostly dead, at least asleep in the light, and a cautionary tale for our day.

There is something for everyone in the 5 we've covered so far. What I find interesting is that each city's body of Christ was unique with its own issues, good things, and troubles. We find the same in our network of house churches - each church is unique, each within a culture of a city or nation that provides challenges for the Christian.

With each church the Lord urges humility, repentance, a seriousness about one's faith and walk with Him. And what I find especially true to this day, He has little patience for those who call themselves Christian while teaching and prophesying compromise with the world. Next week, the city of brotherly love, Philadelphia, and Laodemia, the one who thought because they were so blessed financially it was God's blessing and they had need of nothing.

As I said, something for everyone...until next week! Blessings,
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The 7 churches of The Revelation 4 of 4

Hi all,

Now we come to Philadelphia - it is the Greek word for 'brotherly love' and used throughout the New Testament to describe exactly that. Like the letter to Smyrna, there is very little the Lord finds wrong with the body of Christ there.

In The Revelation 3:7-12 He commends them in that they 'are very weak, yet have kept my Word and not denied my name'. Then the Lord makes an amazing promise about a future time of judgement where they will be vindicated;

"I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you."

It reminds me of Matthew 12:41-42 when the Lord told the people around Him that the people of Nineveh will rise up in judgement against that generation because someone greater than Jonah was in their midst, and the same with the Queen of Sheba as there is one greater than Solomon in their midst.

It speaks to a time when people who scorn us now will one day see Who and what we were talking about. The Lord has the last say on our life, and we need to be encouraged when people speak against us or treat us poorly.

Laodemia - the rich church in need of nothing

The city was located on the Lycus river like Colossae and Hierapolis, which was a major east-west travel route. Hierapolis was just 6 miles to the north (10km) and had hot springs that served as the water supply for Laodemia, transported there by an aqueduct.

When the water started in Hierapolis it was very hot, but by the time it reached Laodemia it was lukewarm, meaning it was too hot to drink but too cold to use for cooking - it wasn't good for anything unless someone either heated it or cooled it based on their need.

Additionally, because of the hot springs and mud that went with it, Laodecia had a huge medical complex for eye and other diseases, believing the mud-based salve to aid the healing of diseased eyes. Both these cultural facts figure in to how the Lord speaks to them:

14 "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. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because **you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.** 17 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. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 20 *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.* 21 *To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.* 22 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

It could be argued Laodecia became lukewarm because of its great wealth - we can see that in our day as well. They had a prosperity gospel which was actually consistent with some in Judaism who believed wealth was a sign of God's blessing on a person's life. That isn't always the case, for the church He is coming for is one that is very practical and down to earth - I was hungry...thirsty...naked...a visitor....sick...in prison...and you took care of me. That is where the blessing of God rests on a person, in the things no man sees, but the Father only.

To me, the 'oh me' lesson is that these Christians did not know they were no longer righteous in the eyes of the Lord. He said they were 'wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked', and He said they needed to 'buy white robes'. (Robes of righteousness, Revelation 19:8, 14)

I wonder today how many believers are unrighteous like the Laodecians - not going to hell, just not right before the Lord. Maybe I should include this thought. If our lives are like a pizza with 12 slices, maybe in 11 of those slices we are upright and right before the Lord. But some have that secret 12th slice where they hold onto the secret sin, or they hold onto that bitterness or haven't restored fellowship with a friend, or are in envy, strife or divisions. That 12th slice makes them unrighteous in that area of their lives. The Lord will for the sake of privacy, bless those other 11 slices while at the same time working on the heart of the person about that 12th slice...

Paul said the same in his first letter to the Corinthians, 3:3-15. He said their strife and divisions were wood, hay, and stubble that would be burned away on judgement, though they would be saved, but as one having come through fire. The Corinthians loved the Lord, were tongue talking believers - but they were full of strife and divisions - that part would be burned away in judgement if they didn't deal with it this side of heaven.

It's interesting that the first letter, to the Ephesians was about a church once zealous for the Lord but now cooled down, and ends with the letter to the Laodecians about the same subject. The caution throughout these letters is to guard against complacency, that lukewarm faith that sits in neutral gear rolling along with the flow of 'traffic', just going through the motions.

Some read the messages to the 7 churches as periods of church history - starting with Pentecost and great zeal like Ephesus then falling into works in the name of the Lord but no real relationship at the end of the 1st century. Then they see the persecution of Smyrna being the time between The Revelation and the legalization of Christianity in the 300's AD, and so on, ending with Laodecia being the church today.

I find that to be a rather self-focused American or western way of looking at things. Over 20 years ago various organizations posted estimates that at least 173,000 Christians are martyred every year for their faith, and from what I've read since, things haven't changed. More Christians are being killed for being Christian today than ever before. And not every Christian around the world is wealthy enough to feel lukewarm about the Lord.

But if we look at each church representing seasons of our own spiritual lives...

I think that can fit. Many of us had an initial season of zeal like Ephesus, then found ourselves going through the motions like they did...And like Smyrna, early on we suffered persecution, rejected by friends and family for our new faith.

Then like Pergamos we had a time that seemed to be with people from the 'synagogue of Satan', worldly people, maybe we had a seasons of 'falling away' from the faith. And maybe like Thyatira we had our time in the world's system, a Christian in our hearts but doing business as ruthless business people. Or we got caught up in the system, compromising our morals and ethics in the name of making money and gathering 'things'.

Next was Sardis, asleep in the light, the feeling spiritually dead church - having experienced the world perhaps like Thyatira and the deep sins of idol worship and sexual immorality, we went through a season of spiritual deadness, asleep in the light, keeping our thoughts about the Lord and 'what we needed to do'.

...and then we had a season of Philadelphia, turning our hearts to love and forgiveness, wanting to rejoin 'brotherly love', learning to grow a backbone though surrounded by unbelievers, humbling ourselves to those we broke fellowship with, making our way back to the Lord. Then to Laodemia, thinking all was well, after all God was blessing, but in the heart still searching for the real, the genuine, the true...and maybe that's for some today.

And to that He tells them: "I am here! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone opens I will enter into and we will share a meal together, and you can sit with me in my throne and kingdom...."

There is something today for everyone in the Lord's messages to the 7 churches so long ago. Whatever elements are quickened to you, follow that 'rhema', that element the Lord is showing you, and get all the spiritual nourishment you can get! Come quickly Lord Jesus!

New subject next week, until then, blessings,
John Fenn

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