

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

A SURVEY OF
THE NEW TESTAMENT

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Study Number Twenty-Two REVELATION

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1 We come tonight to the final session of THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE
2 GLORY. We have walked together through the entire New Testament, although only on
3 a “survey” jaunt. A thorough study of the New Testament would require your life time.
4 Since I have taught this wondrous book of Revelation in some detail in earlier studies, we
5 will go through it quickly tonight, spending our time primarily on chapters 2 and 3.

6
7 For your memory boost, here’s an outline of the entire book:

8
9 Chapter One: The Apostle John, now an old man, is visited on Rome’s Death Island,
10 Patmos, and given the vision of the end time.

11
12 Chapters Two and Three (which we will study in detail tonight): Christ’s messages to
13 the seven churches of Asia (western Turkey).

14
15 Chapter Four: Our introduction to the Presence of God at His Throne.

16
17 Chapter Five: The book of judgment in God’s hand, sealed by seven seals.

18
19 Chapter Six: Six of the seals opened.

20
21 Chapter Seven: The 144,000 “sealed” Jewish witnesses.

22
23 Chapter Eight: The 7th seal and the first four trumpet judgments.

24
25 Chapter Nine: The 5th and 6th trumpet judgments.

26
27 Chapter Ten: The book in God’s hand, bitter to taste and touch.

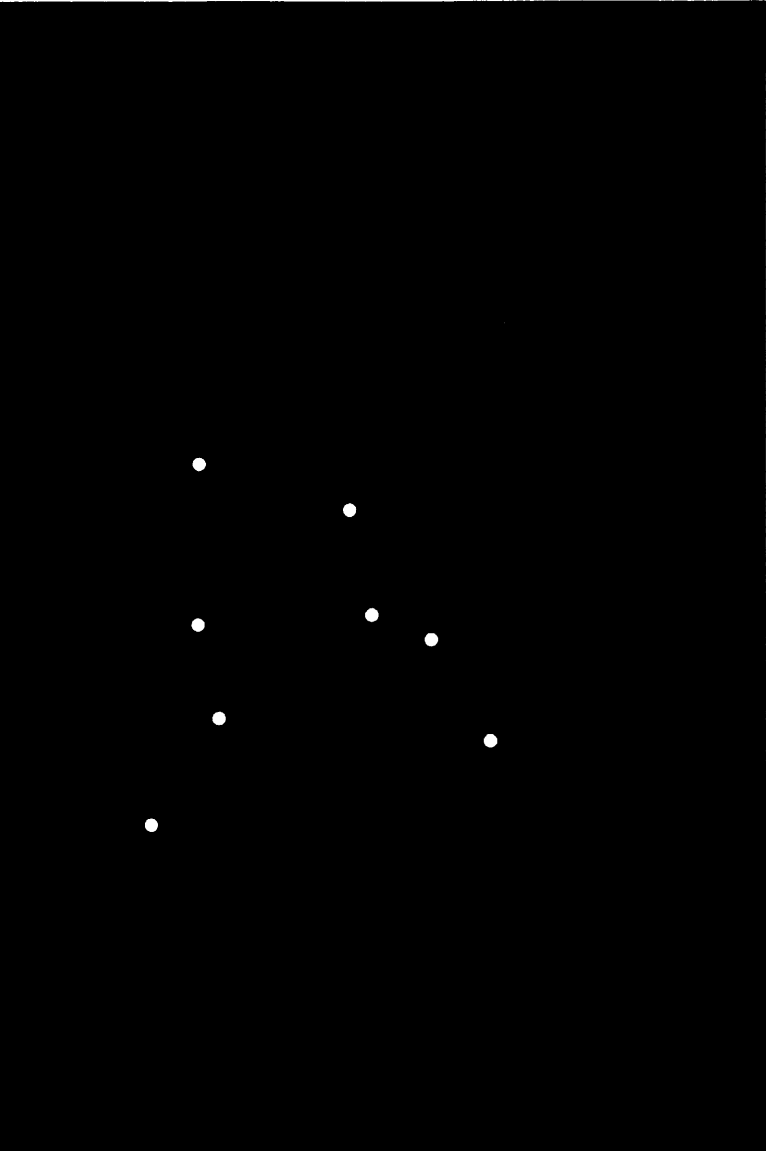
28
29 Chapter Eleven: The Two Great Witnesses.

- 1
2 Chapter Twelve: Satan (and the world's) enmity with Israel.
3
4 Chapter Thirteen: Antichrist and the False Prophet
5
6 Chapter Fourteen: The Lamb of God on Mount Zion.
7
8 Chapter Fifteen: Introduction to the vial (or bowl) judgments.
9
10 Chapter Sixteen: The seven deadly vial judgments poured on the earth during the Great
11 Tribulation.
12
13 Chapter Seventeen: The Great Harlot.
14
15 Chapter Eighteen: Political Babylon destroyed by God.
16
17 Chapter Nineteen: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the Second Coming of Christ.
18
19 Chapter Twenty: Satan bound and the Millennial reign of Christ begins. This chapter
20 also describes the Great White Throne Judgment.
21
22 Chapter Twenty One: A New Heaven and a New Earth.
23
24 Chapter Twenty Two: Life in eternity.

25 26 **THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA (WESTERN TURKEY)** 27

28 Suppose you opened your mail box tomorrow and found a very special and personal letter
29 to you. The letter was written by Jesus Christ Himself to you. Would you consider that
30 letter urgent? Of course, you would. Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation contain seven
31 letters, written by Jesus, one each to the seven great churches of western Turkey. There
32 were hundreds of other churches in the world, to be sure; but Jesus addressed these letters
33 to seven specific congregations:

- 34 1) Ephesus
35 2) Smyrna (present-day Izmir)
36 3) Pergamos
37 4) Thyatira
38 5) Sardis
39 6) Philadelphia
40 7) Laodicea
41



[The darker areas represent the Aegean Sea and the lighter areas represent western Turkey.]

Christ's messages to the seven first-century local churches in Western Asia Minor are given as exhortation, warning and edification for believers and churches throughout this age. The value of these messages for the church today includes: 1) a revelation of what Jesus Christ Himself loves and values in His churches, as well as what He hates and condemns; 2) a clear statement from Christ regarding (a) the consequences of disobedience and spiritual neglect and (b) the rewards for spiritual vigilance and faithfulness to Christ; 3) a standard by which any church or individual may judge their true spiritual state before God; 4) an example of Satan's methods for attacking the church or the individual Christian.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT STUDY BIBLE /
ZONDERVAN / PAGE 2056

27
28 **Chapter Two / The Message To The Church In Ephesus**
29

30 Rev. 2:1-4

31 **Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth**
32 **the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden**
33 **candlesticks; [2] I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou**
34 **canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are**
35 **apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: [3] And hast borne, and hast**
36 **patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. [4]**
37 **Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**
38

- 39 1. The "seven stars" are the seven churches. The "angel" in each case is commonly
40 accepted to be "the pastor" - or the leader.
41
42 2. Christ lists seven things He loves about the church in Ephesus:

1 A. "I know thy works" We are not "saved by our works," but children of God will
2 produce good works!

3
4 B. "I know thy labor" "Labor" here means "weariness," or "a state of being tired."

5
6 C. "I know....thy patience" Patience (Galatians 5:22) is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

7
8 D. "I know how thou canst bear them which are evil"

9
10 E. "Thou hast tried them which say they are apostles and are not." In other words
11 they tested those who claimed spiritual gifts or titles.

12
13 F. "Thou hast borne....for my name's sake...." This regards a strong theology,
14 staying with the truth of the Gospel.

15
16 G. "And hast not fainted" In other words, they had grown weary IN their work but
17 not weary OF their work. Big difference!

18
19 3. Now Christ states what He CONDEMNS in the Ephesian church: (Verse 4) "Thou
20 hast left thy first love."

21
22 THE BOTTOM LINE OF OUR SERVICE TO THE LORD IS WHY WE DO IT.
23 DO WE LOVE HIM PERSONALLY? OR DO WE JUST ENJOY THE WORK?

24
25 Christ commanded the church (verse 5) to repent and get back to a restored first love
26 once again.

27
28 4. Christ also commended the Ephesian church for its intolerance of the Nicolaitans.
29 They were not unlike the "new agers" of today's generation who espoused a comfort level
30 with sin and a disregard for absolutes.

31
32 Rev. 2:7

33 **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him**
34 **that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the**
35 **paradise of God.**

36
37 ✓ Jesus said, "Pay attention to what I'm saying!"

38 ✓ And He makes it clear to all the seven churches that it's the individual or church
39 who overcomes clear to the end of the journey who will be rewarded in Heaven.

1 **Chapter Two / Christ's Message to the Church in Smyrna**

2
3 It has been forty years since I was in Smyrna (Izmir, Turkey) and I honestly don't
4 remember a whole lot about it. We were docked at the gorgeous harbor - I do
5 remember that and we visited the spot where Polycarp (who pastored there and followed
6 the long, long ministry of his teacher John) was martyred by being burned at the stake.
7 Say the word "Smyrna" slowly and you will include in your utterance the word myrrh. It
8 has the meaning of suffering. Smyrna represents the martyred church from about A.D.
9 100 to 314 A.D.

10
11 Our Lord had strong commendation for this church:

12
13 Rev. 2:9-10

14 **I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know**
15 **the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue**
16 **of Satan. [10] Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil**
17 **shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation**
18 **ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

19
20 1. There are multitudes of believers today who are being persecuted even to death for
21 their faith in Christ, most of them at the hands of fundamentalist or radical Muslims.

22
23 2. You will note the people in this church were poor. Obviously they had not heard the
24 "prosperity gospel". Their church was made up of slaves, ex-slaves, runaway slaves,
25 freed people, poor people and those who had lost whatever they had when they came to
26 faith in Christ.

27
28 3. Verse 10 speaks of trouble or persecution for ten days. There were ten historical
29 periods of severe persecution under Rome:

- 30 ✓ Nero 64-68 A.D. Paul was beheaded during that time
- 31 ✓ Domitian 95-96. John was put on Patmos under his reign
- 32 ✓ Trajan 104-117 Ignatius was burned at the stake
- 33 ✓ Marcus Aurelius - 161-180 Polycarp burned at the stake
- 34 ✓ Severus 200-211
- 35 ✓ Maximinius 235-237
- 36 ✓ Decius. 250-253
- 37 ✓ Valerian 257-260
- 38 ✓ Aurelian 270-275
- 39 ✓ Diocletian 303-313 (considered by some to be the worst for Christians)

40
41 4. Again the reminder to "overcome:" Rev. 2:11

1 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that
2 overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

4 Chapter Two / Christ's Message To The Church in Pergamum

5
6 It is perceived by many Church scholars that not only was Pergamum a real city in John's
7 day, but it also represents church history from A.D. 314-A.D 590. You must remember
8 that Emperor Constantine in the early 300's A.D. proclaimed that everyone was a
9 Christian by law. Persecution ended. At this point, the church no longer "got into the
10 world, but the world got into the church." We are talking about rank paganism.

11
12 It was a religious (false religion) stronghold. It boasted great temples. Pergamum was
13 also the site of the greatest library in the pagan world at that time with over 200-thousand
14 volumes.

16 Rev. 2:12-17

17 **And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which**
18 **hath the sharp sword with two edges; [13] I know thy works, and where thou**
19 **dwest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not**
20 **denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who**
21 **was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. [14] But I have a few things against**
22 **thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught**
23 **Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed**
24 **unto idols, and to commit fornication. [15] So hast thou also them that hold the**
25 **doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. [16] Repent; or else I will come unto**
26 **thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. [17] He that**
27 **hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that**
28 **overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone,**
29 **and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that**
30 **receiveth it.**

31
32 1. Jesus said first of all to the church there (verse 13), "I know where you are!" He
33 understood their wretched location. Jesus took note of their difficulties. That's one of
34 the reasons you and I are not to judge others. We don't know where they have come
35 from or the situation they live in presently.

36
37 2. "Where Satan's seat (throne) is located." In other words, Pergamum was the
38 headquarters for satanic worship.

39
40 3. Yet, despite the local, the believers there held "fast the name of Jesus." "You have
41 not denied my faith." What little bit of persecution does it take for many of today's

1 professing believers to “deny the faith?”

2
3 4. Christ’s condemnation: “Some there hold the doctrine of Balaam...” Basically this
4 promoted the unequal yoke in marriage which introduced into the church a lot of idolatry.

5
6 The doctrine of the Nicolaitans (Refer to page 4, # 4).

7
8 5. Christ commanded the church to repent. Rev. 2:17

9 **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him**
10 **that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white**
11 **stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that**
12 **receiveth it.**

- 13
14 ✓ “hidden manna” refers to the very person and passion (death) of Jesus. We feed
15 on the very person of Christ.
16 ✓ “the white stone” The people of that city had a custom of giving little white
17 stones with their names and addresses on them - rather than calling cards. Jesus
18 said, in effect, “I will give you my personal calling card and you can reach me at
19 any time.”
20

21 **Chapter Three / Christ’s Message To The Church In Thyatira**

22
23 Western Turkey is an exceptionally-beautiful region. I have not been in Thyatira but I
24 am told it is a magnificent area. The city was founded by Lysimachus, one of
25 Alexander’s (the Great) generals several hundred years B.C. The city prospered again
26 under Vespasian the Roman Emperor and was the headquarters for guilds - especially
27 textiles. The first-known Christian convert in Europe that we know about was Lydia, a
28 textile manufacturer who came from Thyatira (Acts 16:13-15).

29
30 Rev. 2:18-29

31 **And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of**
32 **God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; [19]**
33 **I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy**
34 **works; and the last to be more than the first. [20] Notwithstanding I have a few**
35 **things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself**
36 **a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat**
37 **things sacrificed unto idols. [21] And I gave her space to repent of her fornication;**
38 **and she repented not. [22] Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit**
39 **adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. [23] And I**
40 **will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which**
41 **searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to**

1 your works. [24] But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have
2 not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I
3 will put upon you none other burden. [25] But that which ye have already hold fast
4 till I come. [26] And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him
5 will I give power over the nations: [27] And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as
6 the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my
7 Father. [28] And I will give him the morning star. [29] He that hath an ear, let him
8 hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

9
10 1. Jesus speaks here not only to a specific church but ... This Thyatira period stretched
11 from A.D. 590 to about 1000 - or the collapse of the Roman Empire (especially in the
12 west) to the depths of the feudal ages or the Middle Ages. It was a dark time in human
13 history. It was a time in which the church in Rome became strong.

14
15 2. Our Lord's commendations to the church in Thyatira included
16 ✓ Works - there were many active and faithful believers
17 ✓ Love - out of the church in Rome came some incredible men of God including
18 John Wycliffe, John Hus, Savonarola and others, some of who paid with their lives
19 for the Gospel
20 ✓ Faith
21 ✓ Ministry
22 ✓ Patience
23 ✓ "Thy last works are more than the first" - in other words, an increase

24
25 3. But there is also a strong condemnation: "You tolerate that woman Jezebel the
26 prophetess who teaches my servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to
27 idols"

28 During these centuries, many pagan practices were introduced into the church
29 including worship of the Virgin Mary, teachings on Purgatory and prayers for the dead.
30 In centuries to come, in fact, for the next 500 years, the church would become apostate - a
31 dead, ritualized and secular entity far removed from the Gospel of Jesus.

32
33 4. Again the final admonition - "hold fast till I come."
34

35 Chapter Three / Christ's Message To The Church In Sardis

36
37 While the church in Sardis was a very real church in Turkey 1900 years ago, this passage
38 in chapter three also represents yet another "church age," this one the Reformation that
39 took place roughly between 1500-1800. It began when Martin Luther challenged the
40 Roman Catholic church position on a number of theological issues.
41

1 Rev. 3:1-6

2 **And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath**
3 **the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a**
4 **name that thou livest, and art dead. [2] Be watchful, and strengthen the things which**
5 **remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. [3]**
6 **Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If**
7 **therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not**
8 **know what hour I will come upon thee. [4] Thou hast a few names even in Sardis**
9 **which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for**
10 **they are worthy. [5] He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment;**
11 **and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name**
12 **before my Father, and before his angels. [6] He that hath an ear, let him hear what**
13 **the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

14
15 1. What a staggering indictment in verse 1: "...thou hast a name that thou livest, and art
16 dead."

17 How many churches and individual professing believers, while calling themselves
18 Christians, merely go through the motions of their faith, but the passion has long since
19 gone?

20 Do we really believe in Heaven or Hell? Do we really believe Christ will return?
21 Do we really believe we have responsibility to the lost world?

22
23 2. Verse 4 indicates there was a remnant (a few) of believers in Sardis that kept the faith
24 and remained fixed on Christ.

25 It is said that no chain is stronger than its weakest link. I believe everyone of us
26 should examine our hearts. Are we a strong link at First Assembly? Or a weak one?

27 28 **Chapter Three / Christ's Message To The Church In Philadelphia**

29
30 Again, while this church existed 1900 years ago, it also represents a "church age," which
31 I believe has been the renewed church since the Welsh Revival in the early 1900's.

32
33 *During the spring of 1904 a young Welshman named Evan Roberts was repeatedly*
34 *awakened at 1 a.m. He met with God until 5 a.m. The Welsh revival followed.*
35 *Churches were packed for prayer meetings. A powerful spiritual awakening that*
36 *brought over 100,000 people to Christ was underway. The London Times newspaper*
37 *reported that, "The whole population has been suddenly stirred by a common impulse.*
38 *Religion has become the absorbing interest of their lives with services lasting up to eight*
39 *hours at a time. Political meetings and even soccer matches have been postponed.*
40 *Quarrels between trade union workmen and non-unionists have been made up."*

1 This move of God leaped across the Atlantic and began the great Pentecostal renewal, out
2 of which the Assemblies of God were born. They key factors were a return to the Word
3 of God which was taught, preached and lived.
4

5 Rev. 3:7-13

6 **And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is**
7 **holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man**
8 **shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; [8] I know thy works: behold, I have**
9 **set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength,**
10 **and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. [9] Behold, I will make them**
11 **of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I**
12 **will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved**
13 **thee. [10] Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from**
14 **the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell**
15 **upon the earth. [11] Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no**
16 **man take thy crown. [12] Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of**
17 **my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my**
18 **God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh**
19 **down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. [13] He**
20 **that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

21
22 1. Verse 7: God opens doors and shuts them. It is only our responsibility to go
23 through them by faith. I am often asked by young people with a call to ministry, “How
24 do I get in the door?” You don’t really. God opens the door, shows you where to go
25 and what to do, and then you just do it.

- 26
27 2. Christ commended this church on seven things:
28 ✓ Their works. Faith without works is dead
29 ✓ They walked through the doors God opened
30 ✓ They had a little power - and exercised what power God had given them
31 ✓ They kept God’s Word. It’s one thing to know Scriptures and quite another to live
32 them.
33 ✓ They did not deny Christ’s name.
34 ✓ Christ loved them (verse 9)
35 ✓ The church patiently and consistently kept the faith.
36

37 *“The Philadelphia church represents the revived church, the church that returned to*
38 *the Word of God. It is this church that is to be raptured, His true church and I do not*
39 *think you can put them in any denomination or any local church. They are scattered*
40 *throughout the world today.”*

41 THRU THE BIBLE / MCGEE / NELSON / VOLUME V / PAGE 920
42

1 **Chapter Three / Christ's Message To The Church in Laodicea**

2
3 The city of Laodicea was a place of great resource. Science and literature abounded.
4 There was a medical center there where salve for the ears and eyes was produced.
5 Today's doctors have concluded that there was no healing substance at all to those
6 products; they were merely money-makers for the producers and panaceas for the
7 consumers. The church there was lukewarm, complacent and dead.

8
9 Rev. 3:14-22

10 **And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the**
11 **Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; [15] I**
12 **know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.**
13 **[16] So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee**
14 **out of my mouth. [17] Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and**
15 **have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and**
16 **poor, and blind, and naked: [18] I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire,**
17 **that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that**
18 **the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that**
19 **thou mayest see. [19] As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore,**
20 **and repent. [20] Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice,**
21 **and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. [21]**
22 **To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also**
23 **overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. [22] He that hath an ear,**
24 **let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

25
26 1. When Jesus said, "I know thy works," this time it was not a commendation but a
27 condemnation. In other words, He said, "Listen, I know what you're up to and I am not
28 pleased!"

29
30 2. He said they were lukewarm. A cold church is the Word-denying, Gospel-rejecting
church; the hot one is passionate and fervent. A lukewarm church is just in the middle
somewhere. I believe that's where most of today's churches are, yes, even in the
Assemblies of God. 53% of the AG churches today are in decline in this country.
Jesus said He would spit such churches out of his mouth. Does it sound to you as if
these churches are going to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

31
32 3. The Laodicean church believes it is rich, increased with resources and has need of
33 nothing. Jesus said that, in truth, the Laodicean church was wretched and miserable and
34 poor and blind and naked.

1 On a cathedral in Lubeck, Germany, is this inscription:

2
3 *Ye call Me Master and obey Me not.*

4 *Ye call Me Light and see Me not.*

5 *Ye call Me Way and walk Me not.*

6 *Ye call Me Life and choose Me not.*

7 *Ye call Me Wise and follow Me not.*

8 *Ye call Me Faith and love Me not.*

9 *Ye call Mr Rich and ask Me not.*

10 *Ye call Me Eternal and seek Me not.*

11 *Ye call Me Noble and serve Me not.*

12 *Ye call Me Gracious and trust Me not.*

13 *Ye call Me Just and fear Me not.*

14 *If I condemn you, blame Me not.*

15
16 4. Look at the invitation of Christ in verse 20:

17 **Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the**
18 **door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**

19
20 We have perhaps all seen the painting of Christ (Holman Hunt-artist) knocking on the
21 door, requesting admittance. We assume He is dealing with a lost person. Not so. In
22 verse 20 Christ is knocking on the door of the church. Will the church let Him in?

23
24 5. In verse 21 we are again reminded for the seventh time that it is the OVERCOMER
25 who will be honored in Heaven, not just the saved.

26
27
28 **Next Wednesday, August 19th, we begin a new series:**
29 **THE LIFE OF KING DAVID**