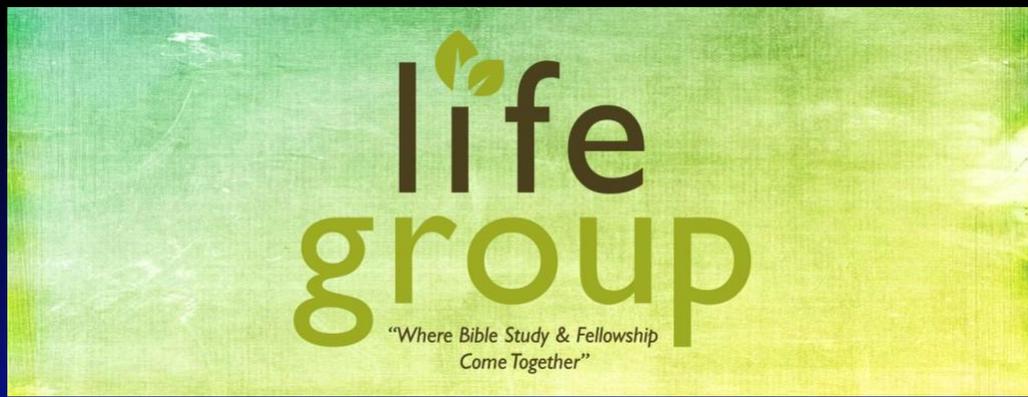


Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED



LIFE Group ...

**6:30 pm at the PEED's home this Wed. evening
Bring your Bibles, your Notebooks, an
Expectant heart and a Prayerful-Thankful Attitude
to Experience the Presence, the Power and the
Purpose of Jesus Christ, together**



Jesus Christ Evaluates His Churches – prt 7



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REVIEW:

Our FOCUS → Find out what Jesus Christ **Likes & Loves** and what Jesus Christ **Dislikes & Hates** -- FYI: There are Only 2 Churches in which Jesus Christ does NOT call to Repentance.

1. Intro: The Symbolic Picture of Jesus Christ revealed & His Message **Intro** to the 7 Churches

2. Understanding God's Hatred regarding anything related to **Idolatry** and **Paganism**, etc.

3. Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7) - Lost Your First Love - Repent - Regain that First Love

Time Period Represents --> **From the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)** until around **70 A.D. or so**

4. Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11) - sweet smelling incense, sacrifice → characterized by **Christian Martyrdom** → Beginning with the Jewish **Bar Kockba Revolt** - which led to the Persecution of Israel by the Roman Empire. Rome viewed “**Christians**” as a new **Jewish Cult**, so it was under that same category at the beginning. Thus, the **Destruction** of the Israeli **Temple** in Jerusalem in **70 A.D.** was the beginning of the seed of the of the **10 waves** of Persecution by the Roman Empire against Christians – it was **LINKED**. Those **10 days** of Persecution → represented those **10 Distinct waves of Persecution** by the Roman Empire → this was the **KEY** that unlocked the **Mystery of the 7 Churches** → Represent **Periods of time** within the Church Age – in the case of Smyrna – it represents the Time Period of **67 A.D. until around 313 A.D.**

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5. Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-17) - BAD MARRIAGE --> Represents the beginnings of the **Roman Catholic Church ... 313 A.D until around 529 A.D.** (go to <http://NLFJI.org/Per> for more)

The Pagan Invasion and Integration after **Constantine the First** married the “church” to Rome.

- The **Grand Compromise** based on the “**Doctrines of Balaam**” → **Idolatry and Immorality**
- The **Nicolaitan Model of Leadership** was **Embraced** and Employed (Clergy, Cardinals, Popes)
- **Jesus HATES** Idolatry, Immorality and the Nicolaitan Model of church leadership.

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6. **Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)** – Royal goddess of Purple --> 2nd Pagan/Idolatrous Phase of the Roman church ... Represents the time period of 529 A.D. to the 1300's A.D. (Dark Ages into the beginnings of the Middle Ages)

Massive Integration of Paganism and Idolatry (“**teachings of Jezebel**”) into the Roman church → Mariolatry, Praying to the saints, “**Christian Calendar**” (which is really a Pagan Conglomerate Calendar that was “**Christianized**” by the Roman church), the rise of the **POWER** of Popes/Clergy → Nicolaitans continue.

Tremendous amounts of much false doctrine assimilated and integrated. This will lead them to a “**sickbed**” and Jesus “**striking Jezebel’s children to ‘death’**”.

This leads us to **Sardis**, the **DEAD** church with a “**Worldly Accepted**” Name.

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Revelation 3:1-6

Jesus said, “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. (2) Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. (3) Remember therefore what 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. (4) You 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. (5) He 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.””

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Today's Study → **“the church of Sardis”**

Sardis → **“renewal”** modern day Turkish City of Sart

SARDIS represents, **prophetically**: the church age: **1300s A.D. to the Present**

1. **“These things says Him who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars” (Rev. 3:1)** → This displays His **Omnipresence** and His **Power** over the Universe and the churches.

2. **Jesus immediately begins the Indictment/Judgment against them:**
Revelation 3:2-3 – Name for themselves ... but they were really DEAD

The Pride of Babylon (i.e. the Tower of Babel) – a NAME

→ **“... when you think of Christianity, you think of ME ...”**

But ... Jesus said that they were DEAD (or almost dead...)

The Plague → the Black Death – 1347

“bed of sickness” “I will kill her children” (Rev. 2:22-23 – against Jezebel)

Paganism / Idolatry always leads to Tyranny, Sickness, Poverty, and Death ...

... this was the time of The Inquisition / and Great Persecution by the RC

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3. **Warning and REMEDY? – Remember, REPENT Go Back to the Beginning - Revelation 3:2-3 ... Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. (3) Remember therefore what 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.**
 - a. **Jesus was seeking to Catch them before they were fully dead with no recovery (ready to die)**
 - b. **They were focused on “works” – Jesus is NOT. Their Works were Rejected by God (probably because they were Paganistic/Idolatrous)**

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3. **Warning and REMEDY? – Remember, REPENT Go Back to the Beginning -**
 - c. There were some things that they could do and had to do for their full recovery:
 - i. be watchful and strengthen what they have
(i.e.: faith in Sound Doctrine, faith in Christ, simply)
 - ii. Remember what they received and heard, **Hold FAST** to that
(i.e. The Word of God)
 - iii. **REPENT**: turn back, reject the paganism, false doctrines, pagan traditions, etc. that they elevated above God’s Word (just see the two points above)
 - d. The actual repentance by some, leads to the next church → Philadelphia
→ Protestant Reformation
 - e. Those that did not Repent, remains as SARDIS, to this day → The Roman Catholic church → “if you will **NOT** watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know the hour ...” → **2nd Coming of Christ – in Judgment**

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4. **You have few names ... → Rev. 3:4 - You 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.**

During this time period – especially during the 1200's thru the 1600's there were a few who only read the Word of the God. They only followed God, in Christ Jesus, according to the Word of God, alone. They rejected the Pagan-rooted, man-made traditions and doctrines and HELD FAST to the Bible. These folks became the “seed” for the Protestant Reformation, typified and exemplified in “Philadelphia”. Persecuted Minority → The Inquisition → massive persecutions → PROTESTANT Revolution. These saints were NOT ashamed of Christ nor His Word ... “ ... I will confess his [their] name(s) before My Father and before His Angels...”

(Rev. 3:5 – see also Matt. 10:27-33 & Mark 8:35-38)

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If you wish to study more on this
please go to <http://NLFJI.org/SARDIS>

Next Week we will Study about **Philadelphia ...**

**All they had was Jesus Christ, His Word, and an Open Door from God
for Spreading the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth ...**

See y'all next week 😊

See y'all Next Time we Gather...

@ LIFE Group and/or Here Next Week



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