

The Lord Evaluates His Church Revelation 2

I. The Successful Church – 2:1-7

1. Ephesus stands out as a model of success
Founded by Paul – Where he stayed the longest
Mother Church – spawned other churches
Timothy and John ministered there as Pastor
2. Lord is Head of this church & in control – 2:1
3. Lord's words of Commendation – 2:2-3
What they did was worthy of praise
Did it with diligence "labor" & perseverance
Committed to purity – exercised discipline
They were noted for faithfulness
They did not get weary in their labor for the Lord
4. The Lord's Censure – 2:4
Successful but drifted from the central issue
First command, love the Lord with all your heart
Love for Christ had cooled – (John 21:15-17)
Worship will wane, service become mechanical
5. The Lord's Counsel – 2:5-7
Repent and rekindle your love for Christ
Unless you repent your light will be extinguished
To your credit you hate the deeds of Nicolaitanes
Message is for all who will listen – all believers
There is a great hope for all who overcome
To enjoy the Tree of Life in the Paradise of God

II. The Suffering Church – 2:8-11

1. Smyrna was not far from Ephesus
This church was under pressure of persecution
2. Lord reminded them that He is in control – 2:8
He started it all and will bring it to conclusion
He conquered death for them and He is alive
3. The Lord's Assessment – 2:9
He knows their suffering but sees them as rich
He is aware of Jewish persecution led by Satan
4. The Lord's Admonition – 2:10-11
Suffering will continue & intensify but do not fear
Crown of Life, deliverance from 2nd death is yours

III. The Compromising Church – 2:12-17

1. Pergamos was the capitol of the province
Center of pagan worship, many pagan temples
One god was Asclepius, the god of healing
As Roman capitol, committed to Emperor worship
2. Lord speaks with the sharp two-edged sword
3. The Assessment – 2:13
Lord recognized they were in Satan's territory
Praise for not denying His name or the Faith
They saw one of their leaders martyred
4. The Areas of Compromise – 2:14-15
Doctrine of Balaam – 2:14
God did not let Balaam curse Israel
Balaam told Balak to attack their purity & idolatry

- This compromise caused 24,000 Israelites to die
Pergamos was involved in similar compromise
Doctrine of Nicolaitanes – 2:15
Not certain about this issue but God hated it
Tolerating within their church what God hated
They did not censure false doctrine (cp. Rev. 2:6)
5. The Admonition – 2:16-17
If no repentance He will fight with His sword
To those who listen and respond there is reward
Hidden manna, white stone (approval) new name

IV. The Corrupt Church – 2:18-29

1. Thyatira was an industrial & commercial center
Lydia was from there & sold dyes produced there
2. The Lord comes with penetrating eyes
What is wrong He will stamp out in judgment
3. The Lord's Commendation – 2:19
He noted their love, faithful service & their works
They were busy, activity was on the increase
4. The Lord's Censure – 2:20-23
Much activity but there were serious problems
They were allowing a "Jezebel" woman to teach
She seduced them with a mixture of paganism
Lord gave her time to repent but she did not
Lord will bring judgment on this church – 2:22
Lord will judge so all churches will learn – 2:23
Lord cannot tolerate false doctrine in His church
5. The Lord's Counsel – 2:24-29
There is a remnant even in this corrupt church
He adds no other burden but to stand fast
Never surrender God's truth
There is rich reward for those who stand fast
To rule and reign with Christ in His kingdom
Reward of the morning star – a new day dawning
All who have ears should listen to these words