

REVELATION 2

THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

Rev. 2:1	Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
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CHRIST IDENTIFIES SELF – He that holds the seven angels in His powerful right hand, who walk among the seven churches

What I Know about you	What I Have against You	What I Want you to change	Warning	What Is In your favor
Works - (actions) Labour - (weariness) Patience - (endurance) Hate evil - (like I do) Test apostles – (credibility) Borne - (to bear) Hast labored - Not fainted (for me)	Have left your first love (apostasy) – the falling away from God.	Remember where you have fallen - (Repent) Do your first work – and pray	I will come “suddenly” and remove the “Holy Spirit” from your church	Hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans

CLOSING STATEMENTS – He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; I will give you to eat of the tree of life, which is in the middle of the Paradise of God.

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write - The angel is the messengers. (*Unto the messenger of the Church of Ephesus*) The “human” messenger of the church is an appointed and dedicated person that God has sent to voice the Word of God to the people as needed. (The leader) This message is for the leader of the church.

Ephesus – A seaport of Asia Minor.

These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand - Jesus Christ holds the seven stars. (The seven stars are the angels). The angels are held in His right hand. (**Right hand represents power**). He protects and keeps them in His loving care.

Who walketh in the midst of - When we listen to the lies of the devil, he will constantly tell you that you are alone. The Lord reminds us in His word that we are never alone. If you are His child He is in the middle of all we do. Just reach out to Him when you cannot find your way. 1 Peter 5:7 – *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

The seven golden candlesticks - The seven golden candlesticks are the seven churches.

Rev. 2:2	I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:
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I know thy works - Works here mean deeds, actions, and your behavior. Does it matter how we live to Christ? Or can we live anyway we want and think that it is alright to continue down that path? The Lord knows our works, even though we won't be saved by our works, but it will be our deeds that show the world and God that we are the children of God. The apple should not fall far from the tree. If we say we are in Jesus then we should live and act like we are in Jesus. Matthew 5:8 - *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.* We know that our hearts are pure when it shows in our actions, deeds and behavior. Is your behavior showing that you are a child of God? We can make that adjustment now, just as Jesus ask this church to do. Thank God for His patience to wait on us to get it right. Don't let your probation past before you do so. It may be too late.

<u>Word</u>	<u>Greek Meaning</u>
Works	Actions, deeds, behavior
Labour	From the word <i>kopos</i> = "weariness."
Patience	Perseverance
Bear	"To carry"

Tried them – 1 John 4:1 - *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

2 Peter 2:1-4 - *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily [secretly] shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious [or "lascivious"] ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, **to be reserved unto judgment;** If the angels are being reserved for judgment which has not happened yet, how can anyone be suffering or punished now, when they die?*

Note: **Is anyone being punished right now? Or are they awaiting judgment?**
 Read the scripture above again and meditate on it with the Holy Spirit.
 Reserved means they are waiting for that moment of judgment to arrive.
 The Holy Spirit will reveal the "truth" to you. Tradition or Word of God?
 Let God lead you to the truth.

Rev. 2:3	And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.
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And hast borne – To bear, to put upon one's self.

And for my name's sake hast labored, and has not fainted – has not "grown weary."

Rev. 2:4	Nevertheless I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
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Who should our first love be? Do we think of that special someone or thing, or do we think of Jesus Christ? This church was guilty of leaving what brought them to a special place of worship. Everything we own and everything we have come from God. He longs to have that first place in our heart. Pray at this very moment for the Lord to bring you back to the truth of His word. Come back to Him and allow Him to lead your path in the right direction for the kingdom of God. Is your joy for the Lord gone? Is the Christian life a life of a burden to you instead of a way of life? The Lord can restore that for you today when you return to your first love [Him].

Compare to this verse and notice the four groups. Which group are you? Mark 4:15-20

1) *And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.*

2) *And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root [source] in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.*

3) *And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.*

4) *And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.*

Check daily to make sure that you are still wrapped securely in the arms of Jesus. But we who are in Christ must remain in Christ and stay faithful, even unto the end.

Rev. 2:5	Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.
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2 Thessalonians 2:3 - *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **falling away first**.* . . . Falling away comes from the word apostasy. What are they to fall away from? In the end times more and more people will leave Christ and all that they have been taught by Him. Even the elect's faith is challenged. Will you stand true to the Savior or will you go with the world and all that it offers? You will be tested by the trials of this life and what it exposes is who you really are. Have you fallen away, have you forsaken your true Savior? What did your test reveal? That is your real answer to this question. Now is the time to make that right decision. Make it for Christ.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen – This church was already beginning to leave Christ. What was taking the place of God? In today's society, social hour has become the center of the joy of the church instead of Christ, the cross and His return. If this is happening in your life in your heart correct it now before it is too late. The Greek word for falling away is "apostasy", which is to forsake. In the last days Paul said, *a falling away first* must happen. Falling away from whom or what? A *falling away* from Christ in the last days and forsaking the truth of His sacred word will happen first in massive number,

then His return *draweth* near. They had left the truth, the one and only thing that could keep them safe and save them from that dreadful "Day of the Lord." Remember the truth and return to it.

And repent - He wanted them to repent. What does repent mean? Greek meaning is to change one's mind or purpose. God wanted them to change their mind of the direction they were going and make Him their number one purpose. We can do the same. We must repent and stop going in the wrong direction. When we sin we may toss it to the side that we are under grace and keep on going. But the Lord wanted this church to "repent". We must abandon the old ways as well as ask God in all sincerity to forgive us [repent] and turn in the right direction. Ask God to cleanse you of any sin and He will make you whole again. It is a very important step in finding our way back to God. Micah 7:18,19 - *Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*

And do the first works - When you received Jesus into your life and you began to grow in Him, what did He encourage you to do? Then return to that and be faithful to Him in doing what He has asked of you. This is your first works your dedication and love to God to do whatever He has asked you to do and allow Him to give you the power to do it.

Or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent - The picture of Jesus walking among the churches [candlesticks] which is the [lampstand] which is the [Holy Spirit] is one you want to always have in your life as well. God is with us if we look for Him with all our heart. He loves us and wants to be a part of everything we do. Won't you repent now and allow Him to cleanse you and walk among those in your home, in your marriage, with your children, and with daily problems. He wants to guide you, don't do what it will take for Him to remove the Holy Spirit from among you. It is the only light we have in this dark world. *"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also"* (John 14:18, 19). He had made the same promise to the people of the Old Testament. *"I will walk among you and be your God, and ye shall be My people"* (Leviticus 26:11,12).

You must do this right away or I will remove the light [Holy Spirit] that you do have, the only way to truth and guidance is through the Holy Spirit. So many operate today without the Holy Spirit and the sad part is that they don't even recognize that He is long gone from their situation by the way they live. They use their own light to find their way, which only leads to more trouble and a lack of true guidance in the way they should go. It keeps them from being able to withstand through the temptations of this world and much needed strength to overcome the trickery and deceit of Satan. Are you failing at what God has called you to do? Ask for more oil the [Holy Spirit] and God will give it to you. Luke 11:13 - *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.*

Rev. 2:6	But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
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But there is one thing about this church that the Lord commended them for doing and that was to hate the deeds or works and practices of the Nicolaitans. Who were the Nicolaitans? A sect who were charged with holding the error of Balaam, casting a stumbling block before the church of God by upholding the liberty of eating things sacrificed to idols as well as committing fornication. The Lord hates sin wherever it is found. He does not hate the person committing the sin. Do you make the same

error as others today? Your deeds/works does matter; it is a way in which others and the Lord know who your real God is. All of what we do is being recorded in the books; it will either accuse us or acquit us. Revelation 20:12 - *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

Revelation 20:13 - *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell [grave] delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

What is being recorded about the way you live today?

God hated the deeds/works of the Nicolaitans. Paganism was in strong force through these people. Worshipping others Gods and worshipping idols God hated. Hate is a strong word; therefore we want to make sure that we are not guilty of the deeds of the Nicolaitans by putting anything before God. The Nicolaitans committed fornication as well. God hated this too. Today immorality is accepted in almost every genre of life. There was a time when it was not tolerated on our television screen as it is permitted today. It is almost as if no one really notices anymore or even flicker at the things the world does anymore. We are really in the last days, as things of this nature increases and the light of God decreases. The sad but true pain of it is that it is accepted more in Christian homes than it used to be in years gone past. May those who love God correct this today before the light which they think they have is removed. Behavior/deeds/works really does matter if you are a child of God. The records will show exactly how you live and it won't be hidden from the world when He returns.

Revelation 20:13 - ***And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell [grave] delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.***

Rev. 2:7	He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.
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Another form of urgency is being placed here. Warning! If you can hear me and want to hear me then listen to what I am saying [the Holy Spirit] to the churches. This message is for you as well as it was for them, if you overcome. Overcome what? Overcome the trials, test, and tribulations of this world, by keeping yourself pure in the midst of the world and what it has to offer.

Do you want to be in heaven with God? Allow Him to prepare you to go there. Those who are not happy here won't be happy there. He is not looking for a people who don't want to obey Him. Are you obeying Him here? Then you will obey Him there. The Lord is preparing us now so that we may be ready for heaven. Don't fight against trials and tribulations that are allowed by God. They will help you prepare to be with Him. If He is asking you today to get rid of anger, strife, jealousy, pride, deceit, sexual immorality or bitterness, give it to Him in order that you will not be hindered from being with Him. Without His strength we cannot be righteous. Isaiah 27:5 - *Or let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me.*

If you allow Him to clean you at His request you can join Him in paradise and eat from the tree of life that sits in the middle of paradise forever. And you will never return to the troubles of this world. If you are alive and can hear me [Jesus spiritually], do this now.

Genesis 2:9 - *And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; **the tree of life also in the midst of the garden**, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

The Old Testament continually helps us understand the New. God did not get rid of the Old Testament He fulfilled it. Matthew 5:17 - *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.* Fulfill is from the Greek word [ginomai] which means "**to become,**" "**to take place, to be established.**" The 10 commandments are still in effect today, even though some say they have been done away with. How can that be? If they were done away with we would have to stop "honoring our parents", it would be ok to "commit murder or lie and steal" and so on. Don't allow the enemy to blind you of God's law, they are still alive and well just as He is today.

Revelation 22:2 - *In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, [was there] **the tree of life**, which bare twelve [manner of] fruits, [and] yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations.*

Rev. 2:8	And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;
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THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA

CHRIST IDENTIFIES SELF - *These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*

What I Know about you	Words of Encouragement	Your Reward
Works (actions, behavior) Tribulations - (distress) Poverty You are Rich - (in faith) Say you are Jews and are not - (symbolic Jews) Romans 2:28 – defines a true Jew Synagogue of Satan	Fear not what you must suffer Be faithful even unto death	I will give you a crown of life

CLOSING STATEMENTS – *He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*

Rev. 2:9	I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and [I know] the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but [are] the synagogue of Satan.
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I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, but thou art rich - I know your works/behavior in all that you do. God knows everything about you. Why won't you today sit with Him and tell Him all about what He

already knows. Why would you need to do this? It opens up a heart of honesty with the Father. It starts a new slate and a new beginning for your relationship with Him. He knows our trials and He knows how to make them work for your good. Trust Him today and start a new relationship with the Father, it is not for Him, it is for you. Remember you want to go to heaven, but God wants you there more than you want to be there. He has shown that by giving His life so that you may have this moment with Him in order for you to have a better life in this world and in the world to come.

And poverty, but thou art rich – How can we be poor and rich at the same time? In the world our earthly wealth or lack of it is not an issue to God. Why is that? Because He owns everything in this world, He has riches beyond what we could ever imagine. Therefore as a child of God this makes you rich as well, so you don't have to worry about what you will eat or what you will wear or will there be shelter for you, that is His concern. What He wants you to have is His riches of spirituality in Him, then you are wealthy indeed. This church had struggles with owing the government, but God reminded them that they were rich in Him. We need to be reminded of that today. Whatever you are facing, whatever you are going through God wants you to trust Him for those things, but do not neglect your spiritual wealth; peace, longsuffering, patience, strength, faith in Him and so much more. God has chosen you for that very purpose.

James 2:5 - “. . .Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?” At times we need to be reminded who we are in Christ, opposed to who we are in the world. You may not have the finest in all that you possess, but remember that the Lord chose those who have so much faith toward Him to be in heaven with Him. In the end this will be all that really matters.

Blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not - Who is a real Jew? Romans 2:28-29 - *"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and **circumcision is that of the heart**, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."*

He was not referring to being born a Jew, but what a Jew in His day represented. It represented that you knew Christ and lived for Him. Aren't you glad that genetics does not matter to God or status? What really matters to Him is will my heart belong totally to Him. He wanted the Jews to carry the truth to the world, but they refused that position so the Father used anyone who would. Today that is you and me as we carry the truth to all the Nations. If your heart has not been changed in the spirit of God and not by the wisdom of men, then He is not speaking of you either. We must have a new heart to follow God and only He can give it to you. Only God can change the heart.

But [are] the synagogue of Satan – They weren't fooling God. They claimed they were for God, [symbolic Jews], but He knew they were from the synagogue of Satan. Does that sound familiar in the world today? People who claim they know God, act as if they know God, study as if they know God, but live totally different when trials, test and tribulations come. Watch out for people like that, the bible has already warned us of *wolves in sheep clothing*. God knows your heart and even though you may fool others in believing that you are from the temple of God, He knew that this church was from the temple of Satan.

2 Timothy 3:5 - *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such [turn away].*

Matthew 7:15,16 - *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.* What are their fruits? Is it crowds of people who follow them? No, that is far from the truth. Massive amount of people followed Jesus and He healed many of them, and only one returned to thank Him of the ten He healed (Luke 17:11-19). Even some of the original followers left Him. Then what are the fruits Jesus is speaking of here? Galatians helps us with the answer.

Galatians 5:22-25 - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance [self-control]: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.* A true leader must have these attributes. You will know them by the above list in Galatians, look for them in others but make sure you have them too.

Look for these qualities in anyone, especially leaders. Crowds are not to be trusted, but fruit can be. Jesus told you to do this. This is true judgment, judgment of one's character against the fruit of the word of God. When you find these fruits you have found a true follower of God. Keep your eyes on Jesus at all times for He is your only source of truth. Follow me as I follow Christ and any leader's fruit will tell you the real deal about Christ. A true leader proclaims that "I am the lesser light and points others to the greater light, Jesus."

What are the fruit of the world [flesh]? Galatians 5:19-21 - *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness [unbridled lust], Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance [debate], emulations [imitate], wrath, strife, seditions [division], heresies [contradict by choice], Envyings, murders, drunkenness, reveling [carousal], and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Rev. 2:10	Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast [some] of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
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Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer - Revelation 12:11 - *"And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."*

That ye may be tried - What a test they would face. Will we be faithful unto death? The Lord may not place such a test as this upon us, but sometimes He will place us in what seems like a victory for Satan. Have you past your test with flying colors? This church would face prison and death. What does your trial reveal? Are you jealous of others? Do you take God's glory to receive praise from others? Love one another, do good to those who despitefully use you. These tests are not easy, but just as this church had faith to see them through what they must endure, we can use that same faith which will allow the Lord to give us strength and power to make changes in our heart such as these. If you are in a trial right now, know that all He wants from you is to trust Him. As the end time approaches you must stand on the truth of God's word and make a solid effort, no matter what you are facing, to remain faithful to Him, even unto death. Why? Because He always remains faithful to you and whatever trial God allows to come into your life, He has provided sufficient grace (strength) for you to overcome it. Those who overcome will share in the riches of heaven.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life – If we remain faithful to God it will bring you to a happy home in heaven. You will receive a crown of life from God. Nothing on this earth should be worth giving up your crown. Hold on to Jesus and He is faithful to bring you home with Him, forever.

Rev. 2:11 **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.**

He that hath an ear, let him hear – If you are alive and reading this part of passage, this is for you. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Hear it now and ask the Spirit for understanding in order that you may do what is written in this book. Warning! Warning!

He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death – Will we die twice?

What is the second death? – Revelation 20:5, 13-15 - *“And the sea gave up the dead [those who did not live again till the 1000 years were finished] which were in it; and death and hell [the grave] delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their **works**. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.**”* Remember works means behavior or actions. As horrible as this passage may sound, it is the truth. After the 1000 years, which we will discuss in detail later, those who did not rise when Jesus appears in the clouds, will definitely face the second death. Briefly, (until explained later), they will not rise from the dead if they are dead at the time of His return to go with the Saints to meet Him in the clouds. They shall remain dead until after the 1000 years have passed. After the 1000 years they will be resurrected to face “judgment,” and their fate will already be decided based on what status they chose before they died, while they lived on earth. They are resurrected to be cast into the lake of fire, (the punishment) and will be consumed according to the punishment that fits the crime, placed by the High Judge God. **This is the second death.**

Now is the time for Salvation, the next minute or second is not promised. Make your choice right now and stick with that choice. Guard what you have until Christ return so you will not *lose your crown*, or until death knocks at your door, where your decision will already be final, even unto the grave.

Rev. 2:12 **And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;**

THE CHURCH OF PERGAMOS

CHRIST IDENTIFIES SELF - *These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*

What I Know about you	What I Have against you	What I Want you to change	Warning
Works (actions) Where you dwell Where Satan’s seat is. Hold fast my name - (not discard or let go) You have kept the faith	Hold the doctrine of Balaam Hold the doctrine of Nicolaitans	Repent	Or I will come unto thee quickly and fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

CLOSING STATEMENTS – To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth [it].

Rev. 2:12	And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;
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Saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges - Christ identifies Himself as the word. John 1:1 - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

Hebrews 4:12 - *For the word of God is quick ["alive"], and powerful, and sharper than any **twoedged sword**, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

As wrong doctrine has turned many away, more than ever we need to know the truth and teach others the same. As times goes on it will get worse to a point that even *false doctrine* will cause Christians to go the wrong way. To avoid this, stay in the word for (yourself) and along with *straight bible teaching from the Word*, test what you are reading and hearing against the true Word as the Holy Spirit guides you and then you will know the *real* truth.

Rev. 2:13	I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, [even] where Satan's seat [is]: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas [was] my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.
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I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, [even] where Satan's seat [is] – When we build upon that which is false truth, this where confusion, strife, discord and unbelief lives. Anyone are anything that is built on sinking sand and the principles of false worship it is at this place where Satan resides, it is His seat.

Thou holdest fast my name – Your name says a lot about your character. Name means character. When we say the name Jesus Christ there is so much information that comes to mind. The entire bible sums up what is in the name of Jesus. Your life is the same way. This church kept and upheld “the name” of Jesus.

Your name will come up in the judgment. What will it reveal about you? You can “make room for change” right now and if your name, your character has fallen short of what the Lord intended for you to do and be God will correct that in the name of Jesus.

And hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas - Antipas in the Greek mean "like the father." A Christian of Pergamos who suffered martyrdom. This was a common title used to represent those who died in this manner. Here Jesus was praising this church for those who died in this way and did not give up on their faith in Him. These great martyrs faced death and still called upon on the name of Jesus. We may not be required to go throw a trial such as this, but the little that is required of us now, are we doing it? Are we “falling away” after a little suffering for our Lord? May God give us strength to hold fast His name while facing our trials. It’s the least we could do after all that He has done for us.

[Was] my faithful martyr who was slain among you - Martyr is from the Greek word *martus*. *Martus* has another meaning as well, "witness."

Where Satan dwelleth – The place where he dwells (live, stay) and operate along with his followers. In this case the church. Is Satan allowed to dwell in your home? When we allow false doctrine, and do things that are not pleasing to God, Satan will set up camp where you allow His teachings. Make sure you have not allowed Him to dwell among you. Let the bible be the only guide to the truth. Lessons as the one's you are studying should only point you to Jesus Christ in the Bible, not to oneself or belief.

Rev. 2:14	But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.
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Because thou hast there them that hold the Doctrine of Balaam – I have a few things against thee! Jesus loved and praised them for the good they had. Some of which "holding true to the faith in His name" but what about what He held against them? He did not like the doctrine or the teaching of Balaam. Who is Balaam? Greek word Balaam -- an unrighteous prophet. (B.C. 1451), the son of beor, a man endowed with the gift of prophecy he was from a city in Mesopotamia called Pethor. A soothsayer who might have become a prophet of the Lord; a man who loved the wages of unrighteousness, and yet a man who in one supreme moment of his life surrendered himself to God's holy Spirit; a person cumbered with superstition, covetousness and even wickedness, and yet capable of performing the highest service in the kingdom of God: such is the character of Balaam. Reference the [Bible Hub].

Baal Peor – Father of Balaam.

Numbers 31:1-16 – *"And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive? Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD."*

Who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block.....and to commit fornication - What did he teach? Numbers 25:1 - *And Israel abode in Shittim (Literally "acacia trees") and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.*

Rev. 2:15	So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.
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Nicolaitans were the followers of Nicolas. What were their doctrine? We discussed this with the church of Ephesus and we can see here that God still hates what this church was doing also concerning the Nicolaitans. What did he hate about them? They disregarded rules, they had outrageous conduct. This church was held accountable for two things the Lord had against them, the doctrine of Baal and the doctrine of the Nicolaitans.

Rev. 2:16	Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.
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Sword of my mouth – Do you live the way you want instead of the way the Lord says in His word? The Lord was against the behavior of this church. Wrong doctrine will hinder and thwart your beautiful relationship with the Savior and interrupt Salvation in your life. When we walk in the path of sin, we fight against the truth. Christ represents the truth; therefore we fight against Him if we don't do what He says to do in His word. We are no match against a double-edged sword (the Word). We will lose not only in this life but in the life to come.

Rev. 2:17	He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth [it].
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Warning, he that hath an ear understand what the Spirit saith unto the churches! – What are we to overcome? If we stay steadfast to the faith of Jesus and hold on to Him through trials, testing and tribulations we will overcome and eat with Jesus manna in heaven.

Eat of the hidden manna – Exodus 16:4,5 - *Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.*

John 6:31-33 - *Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*

White stone and in the stone – White in the bible represents purity. The “pure church” is represented by a woman in the book of Revelation. Even though there is another woman in Revelation representing the “false church” at the end of time. Which will you wear? White represents the purity of God for the pure church, and the deceptive false church will try to copy her but with lies and deceit. The stone represents unchanging. God wrote the Ten Commandments in stone with His finger. This clarifies that it will never change. Writing with His finger represents the authenticity of what was written. Putting them into a stone represents never changing or altering what He has written. Exodus 31:18 - *And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.*

That is about as authentic as it gets. What He reveals to us in His word, it is written in stone, meaning it will not be revised and it will never change. Thank God for His unchanging love and promises toward us.

A new name written which no man knoweth - What's in a name for example, have you ever received something so wonderful and it was really needed at the time? Even though the item is very simple and everyone has one, it means so much to you and no one knows why you would feel the way you do about something so small? No one can express that thought, feeling or moment. So it is with our new name. It is our own *personal* testimony of what having His name written in your heart really means to you.

Rev. 2:18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet [are] like fine brass;

THE CHURCH OF THYATIRA

CHRIST IDENTIFIES SELF - Saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet [are] like fine brass.

What I Know about you	What I Have against you	What Will Happen to Her	Warning	Those Who Do Not Follow Her Doctrine
Works (actions) Charity (love) Service Faith Patience Last as though (first)	You allow Jezebel to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols	Cast her into a bed and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation I will kill her children with death	Repent of your deeds	No other burden will be placed upon you Hold fast to what you have until I come

CLOSING STATEMENTS – Those who keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Rev. 2:19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Charity – Means love

Rev. 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel – The first thing he had against them was they “sufferest” the woman Jezebel. The word “sufferest” in the Greek means to “allow, to permit.” They allowed Jezebel poor habits into their lives. What did they allow her to do? Let’s take a look at who Jezebel was. Jezebel was the wife of Ahab *1 King 19*. She was also an impious and cruel queen who protected idolatry and persecuted the prophets the *symbolic* name of a woman who pretended to be a prophetess, and who, addicted to antinomianism, claimed Christian liberty of eating things sacrificed to idols. (*Reference the blue letter bible*)

In Christianity, an antinomian is one who denies the fixed meaning and applicability of moral law and believes that salvation is attained solely through faith and divine grace.

Which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants – She was a false prophet in name only.

To commit fornication - 1 Kings 21:25 - “But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.”

And to eat things sacrificed unto idols - Acts 15:28-29 - *For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.*

1 Corinthians 8:1-6 - *Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man love God, the same is known of him. As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, as there be gods many, and lords many, But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

No idols in anyone's life mean or profit that person anything. God is the only one and true God and in Him we move and have our being (Acts 17:28).

Rev. 2:21 | **And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.**

Space to repent – Our God is a just and fair God. He takes no pleasure in the punishment of the wicked that they should perish. *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.* (2 Peter 3:9)

He gives each of us time to repent and to turn in the right direction toward Him. Now is that time. Has the Lord been speaking with you about things in your life that takes time away from Him? Correct that today. Turn to Him and let Him do in you what you cannot do on your own. Jezebel was given time to repent and she did not heed to that warning. Her time was 1,260 days or years to turn from fornication. Her fate is told in the next verse.

Our Lord is just and fair, instead of seeing His punishment as cruel and unjust, look at His love and patience for us instead. How much time has God given you to allow Him to change your heart and come back to Him? Will this be your fate or will you listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches?

Rev. 2:22 | **Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.**

Is this literal adultery? The Lord is our true love and we the people, "the church" are married to Him/Christ. One day He will come for His bride, you and me. Therefore anyone that we partner with here on earth in a relationship that cause us to bond with, put in place of Him commits adultery. Here it speaks of those who went along with the system Jezebel promoted. God does not hate people but He is against the systems that destroy His name. Have you left your first love and gone off with the world? If you are married to the Father through a partnership with Him, this is spiritual adultery. It is not too late to turn back to God and repent, now is the time and He is waiting for you with open arms to return.

This verse is an example of what happens to those who do not heed the voice of God. Jezebel never did repent and made her choice final along with all of those who follow and bonded with her system of fornication. God is calling His children to come back to Him before it is too late.

Rev. 2:23

And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

And I will kill her children with death – Who are Jezebel’s children? They are all the churches that practice as she did. Our Master is the one we serve. We can’t have both. Matthew 6:24 - *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon [treasures].*

And all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts – Our God is a God that does not judge from the outside, but from the inside. What is on the inside? The true intent of the heart. Reins are the innermost thoughts of a person. It is a gauge that is very accurate to the Lord for those who say they belong to Him. As the Father searches your heart, what will He find? You can change anything that God finds that does not line up with the will of God. The Father will change what He points out in your heart. Your job is to agree with Him that it is there. That is the hardest sometimes for us to do. But if we really love Him we can agree that sin has no place in the heart. Join Him today and allow Him to search your heart and find truth in God’s word, on the inside as well as the outside. 1 Samuel 16:7 - *But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*

Search the scriptures for yourself and make sure you are standing on the “truth.”

And I will give unto every one of you according to your works – If we are saved by grace why are we rewarded by our works? Works is another name for behavior. Does your behavior matter? Can we live any way we want and still say we belong to the Father? Our works does matter. Even though we are not saved by our works, our works/behavior is a way to show that we belong to God. It is a sign that our fruit match that of the Father. Your behavior/works/deeds should match that of our Father. It will matter in the end how you live here on earth. Our deeds will follow us to heaven. Revelation 14:13 – “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

Matthew 7:16-20 - *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.***

Our works is a sign of who we are, whether we belong to the Father or to the world. By them others will know who we are. We are a child of the King and our lives should express that.

Rev. 2:24

But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

And unto you oh messenger and all of the rest of the people in Thyatira who have not done the detestable things [the ones who have kept their garments white] such as: fornication, adultery, and idolatry and to all of those who have not reached to the lowest of lowest doing those things of the devil,

I will not put anymore burdens upon you. We can live free from sin because our Savior has provided the way with His blood and through His death.

Will you remain faithful to God no matter what? The majority is going in one direction but those of you who stay pure and holy unto me, you will bear no other burden. In a world where peace is hard to find that is the most comforting words to hear from a loving God.

What a warning this church was given! We can take heed from this church and put off all manner of sins so that we too may not bear the burdens from the consequences of sin. Now is the time to repent. God will hear.

Rev. 2:25 But that which ye have [already] hold fast till I come.

If you feel that you are doing well in the Lord and you have that lasting relationship that few will ever find, then HOLD FAST! Don't let go, stay with Him and He will stay with you. If you are holding fast until something better comes along then you are saying what you have is not the real deal. Christ is Lord and that has been proven, but we must also believe that He is Lord when trials and tribulations come. To abandon Him in trials means that what you are holding on too, is nothing at all. Trust Him when you are down and know that you are with the God of all God's and nothing should shake that faith. He will come through for you. Trust Him until He returns.

Rev. 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Overcome what? Overcome the pains, trials, tribulation, test and rejections of this world. If we overcome here and keep the works [deeds] of the Father unto the end, we will be given power over a multitude of people [nations]. This is a promise from our Lord.

Rev. 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

We shall feed and tend the flock, keep sheep just as Christ did for us. What a lovely role we will have to partake alongside the Savior to rule and govern over with a rod of iron. He was quoting from the Old Testament. Psalms 2:9 - *Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.* This is another promise by the Savior. We will have authority over the heathen nations, all those who are against our Lord.

Christ has this position [ruler] which was given to Him by His Father. Revelation 19:15 - *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

Revelation 12:5 - *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

Rev. 2:28 | **And I will give him the morning star.**

The morning star - To those who overcome I will give you; myself, the morning star. There is no other star but Christ that we can place our hope and trust.