



RETURN OF THE KING

Studies in Revelation

February 17, 2008

Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 6, Issue 17



“MBWA”

Introduction to Revelation 2-3



When King Jesus returns evil will be defeated and every-

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

In the business world a popular management model is called “management by walking around” (m.b.w.a.). The concept makes sense; instead of looking merely at reports a leader gets a real feel for what’s happening in the business by walking around and conducting a personal inspection. This allows the human element to inform the overall assessment. Jesus follows this model as He guides His church. As we see in Revelation 1 He stands among the golden lamp stands which symbolize the church so that He personally and directly knows what is going on. In this week’s study we get to see His evaluation, good and bad, of seven churches of the first century. From this we can draw many lessons about what He desires for every church called by His name.

The first two churches provide a contrast of the kind of commitment that He wants from us. The church at Ephesus was very strong, unwilling to tolerate evil in their midst, and untiring in the fight. However, in their zealous service they had fallen out of love with the Lord, so He challenged them to repent and return to the passionate place that inspired their initial service to Him. On the other hand the Smyrnan church was willing to suffer for the cause of the Lord, an experience that demonstrated a deep devotion to Him. The second set of churches did some good things, too—they were faithful to Jesus’ name, worked hard for Him, and some kept themselves pure. However, they compromised without confronting the evil that had

infiltrated the church. If they did nothing about this Jesus would go to war with them. Finally, the last two churches showed the evil of treating our Christianity casually. The Philadelphians went “all out” and were given even more opportunity to serve the Lord, but the Laodiceans were so lukewarm that Jesus wanted to vomit them out of His mouth. Amazingly, He was willing to restore fellowship with all of them if they would repent and invite Him in. Because of His m.b.w.a. He could correct them and thus be able to reconnect with them.

Daily Study Questions for Revelation 2-3

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com, small groups, abf)

<p>1. Read Rev 2:1-7. How did Jesus identify Himself to the Ephesian church (v1)? What was His commendation (v2-3, 6) and His criticism (v4)? What were they to do (v5, 7)? What was promised (v7)?</p>	
<p>2. Looking at 2:8-11 how did Jesus encourage the Smyrnans (v9, 10, 11)? How did His identity (v8) relate to this?</p>	
<p>3. From 2:12-17 what was good about Pergamum (v13) and bad (v14, 15)? What if they didn’t change (v12, 16) and what if they did (v17)?</p>	

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Revelation 2-3 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Rev 2:18-23 how did Jesus affirm Thyatira (v19) and what did He rebuke (v20-21)? How did He deal with this (v22-22)? How can we apply this?

5. In 2: 24-29 how had the rest been faithful (v24) and what does this mean? What should they do (v25) and what promise was given to them (v26-27)?

6. Looking at 3:1-6 what did Jesus know about Sardis (v1) and what did He advise (v2-3)? What had some done well (v4) and what was promised (v5)?

7. According to 3:7-10 what had Jesus done for Philadelphia (v7-8) and why (v8)? What would He do for them and why (v9-10)?

8. From 3:11-13 what else did Jesus tell them (v11) and what did He promise the overcomers (v12)? Who do you think this is?

9. Using 3:14-17 how did Jesus feel about the Laodiceans (v15, 16)? What was wrong with them (v16-17)? How should we apply this today?

10. Looking at 3:18-22 what does Jesus want lukewarm Christians to do (v18, 19, 20)? What will He do if they don't repent (v19) and if they do (v20)? What is His promise (v21)?

11. Pick out one positive thing about these churches you want to imitate and one negative thing you want to avoid. What is the Spirit saying to the churches that we need to hear?

Scripture to Remember

"I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen and repent and do the deeds you did at first."

Revelation 2:4-5a (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—The Gift of Potential—Matthew 25

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. At this point in your life where do you think you have the greatest potential to make a positive impact on your life and the kingdom? Share that with the group.
2. Look at Matthew 25. What are the resources in your life that you have the potential to invest with great return? Why does fear of failure keep us from investing these?
3. What misperceptions of God do you have that keep you from fulfilling your potential? What do you think some of the consequences of failure to invest will be for you?
4. Discuss the value of believing that failure is universal and that it is temporary. Do you agree with this—why or why not?
5. What are some of the benefits of failure—and how do you get to the place where you can experience these?
6. How would you define failure? Why is it helpful to redefine it as simply making no attempt? How does comparing ourselves with others feed into this failure mentality?
7. Share with the group what you believe is buried in your backyard. What are you going to do about it?