

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Discuss the things for which Christ commended Ephesus.
2. With all the good works, why did Christ rebuke Ephesus? Will the good works have any value?
3. Was the experience of Smyrna much different than Ephesus? Discuss.
4. What reproof was made concerning Smyrna?

### SUMMARY:

Christ revealed many good things about Ephesus. There seemed to be a definite awareness of false disciples in their midst with a definite opposition to them. There was much labor for the Lord with continuing efforts being made to labor more diligently. Yet, despite this, the church at Ephesus received a strong rebuke, because the zeal and the love first planted in their hearts with their conversion had disappeared. Let us beware lest we be busy for the Lord without having love and consideration for others.

Smyrna was to face much opposition and persecution. Their faith was to be sorely tested but they would receive the crown of life if they remained faithful. **NO** reproof was made concerning them, an evidence that trials seem to increase our faith while prosperity seems to weaken it.

### NOTES:

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[SoF:14] We believe in the exercise of discipline by the church in order to deal with the presence of sin in the lives of its members.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #2

October 11, 2020

Fourth Quarter

### CHRIST WARNS EPHESUS AND SMYRNA

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**LESSON TEXT:** *Revelation 2:1-11*

**LESSON SETTING:** Christ's message to the churches.

**TIME:** Approximately 96 A.D.

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- I. CHRIST'S MESSAGE TO EPHESUS.** Revelation 2:1-3
  - A. God Knows All (vs. 2) Jeremiah 17:10; Daniel 2:22
  - B. False Teachers Detected (vs. 2) 1 Timothy 1:7; 2 Timothy 4:3-4
  - C. Laborers for Christ (vs. 3) Matthew 9:37-38; John 4:35-36
  - D. Persevered (vs. 3) Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 12:1
- II. CHRIST'S REBUKE [SoF:14] TO EPHESUS.** Revelation 2:4-7
  - A. Love Grown Cold (vs. 4) Matthew 24:12; 2 Timothy 5:12
  - B. Falling Back (vs. 5) Proverbs 14:14; Luke 8:13; 9:62
  - C. Repent (vs. 5) Psalm 51:17; Matthew 3:2; 2 Corinthians 7:10
  - D. Privileges Withdrawn (vs. 5) Matthew 21:43; Mark 6:11; Luke 20:16
- III. CHRIST'S MESSAGE TO SMYRNA.** Revelation 2:8-11
  - A. Good Works (vs. 8) Matthew 25:35-36; Acts 9:36
  - B. Worldly Poverty (vs. 9) Matthew 8:20; Mark 12:42
  - C. Spiritual Riches (vs. 9) Ephesians 1:18; Hebrews 11:26
  - D. Persecution (vs. 10) Luke 21:12; 2 Timothy 3:12
  - E. Life Tested (vs. 10) Luke 6:48; 1 Corinthians 3:13
  - F. Crown of Life (vs. 10) 2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *TO HIM THAT OVERCOMETH WILL I GIVE TO EAT OF THE TREE OF LIFE WHICH IS IN THE MIDST OF THE PARADISE OF GOD.*  
Revelation 2:7

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Revelation 2:12-29

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Numbers 25:1-8

Galatians 5:16-25; Jude 8:13

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Christ, The Triumphant Lord

**TOPIC:** CHRIST WARNS PERGAMOS AND THYATIRA

**INTRODUCTION:**

Christ told Pergamos that He had the sharp two-edged sword which is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. It can divide the good from the bad. It convinces of sin, righteousness and judgment.

He lovingly commended them for their good deeds but He also pointed out their faults. Their greatest fault was the permitting in their midst those who supported the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans. These taught that it was lawful to eat meats offered to idols, that adultery and fornication were permissible under certain circumstance. Isn't this very much like the teaching of our present day? He told them to repent, to remove these things from them; else He would do it with the sword of His mouth.

To the church at Thyatira He revealed His all-searching eyes, looking into man's innermost heart, knowing his thoughts and intentions. Nothing is hidden from Him. He first commended them for their faithfulness and works of love, but followed this with a sharp rebuke because they had a Jezebel in their midst, who was teaching them the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans. She likely was a prominent woman in the church who should have been put out of the fellowship. The special condemnation was due because they were aware of her teachings and allowed them to continue, corrupting the church. He urged those not following this evil way to hold fast till He comes.

How important that we too practice church discipline to keep the church pure and clean. If we do not do this He will bring us into account too, just as He did these churches.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** It is necessary not only to serve the Lord but also to maintain our fellowship with Him.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *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.* Revelation 2:17

*"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna."* This implies that it is hidden from man and cannot be found. Now **He** will make it available, not to anyone but only to those who overcome. He also promises the white stone, white for purity and acquittal. It was a common practice to determine a man's innocence or guilt by a show of stone. A white stone for acquittal and a black stone for condemnation. The new name written in the stone indicates the new life in Christ and also indicates that the relationship is personal, the name known only to Christ and the person who overcomes.

We ought to diligently apply ourselves to be overcomers. It is so easy to get involved in the affairs of life, and although they may not always be evil, yet they hinder us in our service for God. We are not truly overcomers until we are sold out completely to Him.

Who overcometh here, he shall receive there  
Of the true manna that now hidden is!  
A glorious heritage shall he receive there  
and verily a new name shall be his;  
And no one knows it, save he who owns it;  
And I shall give him the Morning Star.

Z.H. 304:2

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 12 – 18**

M. The Challenge to Wholehearted Devotion. Joshua 1:1-9

T. The Perils of Wrong Motives. 2 Samuel 24:10-17

W. The Basis for True Greatness. Matthew 23:1-12

T. Proper Motivation for Service. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

F. Union of Faith and Works. James 2:14-20

S. \*The Message to Pergamos. Revelation 2:12-17

S. \*The Message to Thyatira. Revelation 2:18-29

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