

## LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES

### Revelation 2-3

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**TRACK 1:** Are new to the Bible, or do you have limited time available? If so, this track is for you! Each week, we'll provide key verses centered around the main points of the sermon. Follow the steps below:

1. This week, there are two key passages, if time allows, you can meditate on both – OR - simply focus on the last letter, the letter to Laodicea. Print the passage(s) and keep handy.
2. Read it often, asking God to help you understand and show you things about your own life.
3. Set aside one time during the week to write your insights in a journal. Use the tips below.

#### Journaling Tips:

- What does this say about Jesus? About His character, or how to follow Him?
- Are there any words of encouragement? Words of warning and conviction?
- What eternal truths or principles do I find in these verses?
- What is the Holy Spirit trying to teach me through these verses? What changes do I need to make in my life to act on what I am learning?

### Revelation 2:1-7: To the Church in Ephesus

"To the angel<sup>[a]</sup> of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup>I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup>You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

<sup>4</sup>Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup>Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. <sup>6</sup>But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

<sup>7</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

## **Revelation 3:14-22: To the Church in Laodicea**

<sup>14</sup> "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. <sup>15</sup> I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

<sup>19</sup> Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. <sup>20</sup> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

<sup>21</sup> To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."