

LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES

Revelation 2 & 3

Track 2: This is for those who wish to dig deeper and have more times to commit. Read the daily Scripture passage and work through the questions provided. Recording your insights in a journal will increase your retention and give you a record of what God is doing in your life!

Let's refresh our memories with the main message to the churches: The world is getting darker. Opposition to Christ and his church is getting stronger. But God is in control, and in the end, God wins. So stand firm in your faith.

Monday

Read Revelation 2:1-7 (Ephesus)

1. Jesus says that he knows of their deeds, hard work, and perseverance? How do you react when others notice these things about you?
2. Listen (or search for the lyrics) of Petra's song "First Love". Describe what a "first love" looks like and then describe the damaging results of losing that "first love".
3. "Hate" is a strong word. What were the practices of the Nicolaitans that the Ephesians hated and what practices would Jesus confirm that we should also hate?
4. Jesus' promise was that they could eat from the tree of life. What does this tell you about Jesus and about his heaven?

Tuesday

Read Revelation 2:8-1:17 (Smyrna & Pergamum)

1. Jesus sees Smyrna's afflictions and poverty. Why do we appreciate when others notice that we go through difficult times?
2. Jesus promised the church in Smyrna the crown of life if they were faithful unto death. What are the other crowns for believers that are mentioned in the New Testament?
3. Jesus sees that Satan has his throne where the church of Pergamum lives. What does Jesus mean and is there a specific place where Satan has his throne today?
4. The church in Pergamum held to the teaching of Balaam and the teaching of the Nicolaitans. What made the teaching evil? Didn't the Apostle Paul say in Romans 14:20 that all food is clean?

Wednesday

Read Revelation 2:18-29 (Thyatira)

1. John describes Jesus' appearance in the first chapter. Why does Jesus then repeat his appearance to the church in Verse 18?
2. Jezebel calls herself a prophetess in verse 20. In the Old Testament, what was the role of a prophet? Why was Jezebel's teaching so evil?
3. Jesus says that he has given Jezebel time to repent. Why does it matter how much time Jesus gives to repent? Do we prefer he give less time or more time? What does our answer tell us about ourselves?
4. Jesus says in Verse 25 to hold on to what they have until he comes. What did they have?

Thursday

Read Revelation 3:1-13 (Sardis and Philadelphia)

1. Jesus sees that the church in Sardis has a reputation of being alive, but that they are dead. In what ways do we rely on our Christian reputation to measure our relationship with Christ?
2. Jesus says that those who have not soiled their clothes will walk with him and he will acknowledge (be a witness) before the Father. Why is it significant that he promises to walk with them and give a testimony on their behalf? Why should it be significant to us?
3. In Verse 7, what is the purpose of the key of David?
4. In Verse 9, Jesus offers those in the church of Philadelphia vindication. Why is vindication important to us as humans? What impact, if any, does it have on our faithfulness?

Friday

Read Revelation 3:14-22 (Laodicea)

1. What is wrong with being lukewarm? Why is water such a good illustration of what Jesus was trying to say?
2. Jesus says in Verse 17 that the church didn't realize their situation. Why is it difficult to see oneself accurately? Why do we need to rely on others to reveal our "blind spots"?
3. Jesus says in Verse 18 that he is the provider of what they really need. Why do we as humans believe that we know what will bring us satisfaction and contentment?
4. Listen (or search for the lyrics) of Steve Green's song "The Refiner's Fire". Why don't we like to be "refined" even if Jesus says that it greatly benefits us?
5. Jesus promises the church that those who overcome will be granted the right to sit with him on his throne. Think about the reward of perseverance. How amazing is that?