

May 4, 2017

REVELATION

The Study of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor

INTRODUCTION

The book of Revelation is the capstone of the Word of God. It ^{finishes} fathers up the truths of all the rest of the Scriptures and organizes them into the plan of God for the ages... It shows us the divine purpose in permitting good and evil to wage war against one another God the Holy and Righteous King will defeat all His foes and bring His redeemed people into His eternal kingdom of peace and glory... It is He who will finish His mighty work, and all the universe will know that He has done all things well.

The book of Revelation is not only the closing portion of Scripture, but its message is a summary of the entire Word of God. Because of this, "blessed" (Greek, makarios) is the person who reads or hears these words and takes heed to live by them (The Popular Bible Prophecy Commentary by Tim LaHaye/Ed Henson).

The Seven churches of Asia Minor in Chronological order are... **ESPTSPL**

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <u>Ephesus</u> | 2. <u>Smyrna</u> |
| 3. <u>Pergamon</u> | 4. <u>Thyatira</u> |
| 5. <u>Sardis</u> | 6. <u>Philadelphia</u> |
| 7. <u>Laodicea</u> | |

Note: Each church represents a church age/ and stages of the Body of Christ.

Tonight we will begin our study on the first Church, called

Ephesus

The heart of the Book of Revelation describes the tribulation period on earth.

The phrase, "is near" (Greek *engys*) is related to the Greek word *egnos*, which can be translated, "it is certain, guaranteed, sure to take place." These

things are going to happen! The believer who lives by God's divine timeline is blessed and understands that what we now know is not all there is. There is an end coming to the sinful story of the human race. And that story is described in Revelation, which concludes with the advent of a new heaven and a new earth. Sin will be eradicated and eternal blessings will follow for those who are saved in Christ.

Notes: Revelation - Chapter 2
7 Spirits of God = Holy Ghost OR Angelic Beings
Isaiah 11:2 - Spirit of the Lord; Fear of the Lord; Wisdom; Understanding; Counsel; Might; Knowledge

EPHESUS: **The loveless Church**

Revelation 2:1 Ephesus - 1. An ancient city in W Asia Minor, S of Smyrna (Izmir): famous temple of Artemis, or Diana; early Christian community. ... Ephesus is modern day Turkey.

Ephesus The commendation....

- a. I know thy works
- b. Your hard work and your perseverance
- c. They could not tolerate wicked men
- d. Tested those who claimed to be Apostles but were not (they were impostors) Found them false.
- e. They persevered and endured hardships for his names sake and did not grow weary — **Rev. 2:3**

Rev. 2:2

Ephesus: God's observation of her.

- a. She left her first love — **Rev. 2:4**
- b. Remember where you feel from grace and repent
- c. Do your first works over again
- d. If you do not repent, I will remove your lampstand (KJV= candlestick) from its place

Rev. 2:5

• Lampstand / Candlestick = Life; God's Presence / Spirit

* Create in me a clean heart; and renew in me a right spirit. Psalms 51:10