

**SUMMARY REVIEW OF SEVEN CHURCHES  
AND OTHER NEW TESTAMENT CHURCHES**  
**Revelation 2-3**

**A. SUMMARY: CHARACTERISTICS OF SEVEN CHURCHES**

1. EPHESUS

a. Positive

1. Hard working

- o You 'toil'

2. Doctrinal purity

- o Don't tolerate evil men—false apostles/teachers—hate Nicolaitans

3. Perseverant

- o Endured for My name's sake—not grown weary

b. Negative

❖ Lost your first love

1. Probably lacking passion for spreading gospel

2. Evidence—warning—"I will remove your lampstand out of its place"

2. SMYRNA

a. Positive

1. Suffering persecution—I know your tribulation

- o Blasphemy by Jews—of the synagogue of Satan

2. Poor—I know your poverty

b. Nothing negative

3. PERGAMUM

a. Positive

❖ Faithful

1. You hold fast to my name

2. Do not deny My faith—even where Satan dwells

b. Negative

1. Tolerate false teaching
  - o Following Balaam and Nicolaitans
2. Tolerate immorality and idolatry—among you

#### 4. THYATIRA

##### a. Positive

###### ❖ Faithful witnesses

1. Your love—unlike Ephesus—you have *not* lost your ‘love’ [passion for gospel]
2. Faith and service—always associated with ‘faithful witness’ in Revelation

##### b. Negative

1. Allow false teachings to take root
  - o Jezebel has entrenched herself long enough to deceive even ‘my bondservants’
2. Tolerate immorality and idolatry
3. Desire deeper knowledge
  - o Some have known the ‘deep things of Satan’

#### 5. SARDIS

##### a. Positive

###### ❖ Some remain faithful—and have not soiled their garments

##### b. Negative

1. Living on past reputation
  - o You ‘have a name’ but are dead
2. Asleep—and growing faint/defenseless
  - o Wake up and strengthen the things that remain
3. Forget teachings/heritage
  - o Remember what you have received and heard—and keep it

#### 6. PHILADELPHIA

##### a. Positive

1. Weak/small—but faithful

- o Kept My word
- o Not denied My name
- 2. Great opportunity ahead
  - o I have put before you an open door—which no one can shut
- b. Nothing negative
- 7. LAODICEA
  - a. Nothing positive!
  - b. Negative
    - 1. Lukewarm
      - o You are neither hot nor cold—I will spew you out of my mouth
    - 2. Worldly dependence on wealth
      - o You say—I am rich and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing
      - o In fact—you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked!

## **B. SUMMARY CHARACTERISTICS OF OTHER NEW TESTAMENT CHURCHES**

- 1. BEREА—**Acts 17**
  - o Scripturally sound—tested everything Paul said by the Bible
  - o More noble-minded than [Jewish persecutors of] Thessalonica
- 2. MACEDONIAN CHURCHES—**II Corinthians 8**
  - o Probably—Philippi, Berea, Thessalonica
  - o Poor and afflicted—but faithful in giving sacrificially
- 3. CORINTH
  - o Divisiveness—I have heard there are divisions among you—leadership cults
  - o Tolerate immorality--incestuous relationship
  - o Rebellious against leadership—resisting Paul
  - o Immature doctrinally—and worldly [struggles with eating food offered to idols]
  - o Not living up to financial commitment—not giving to help Jerusalem

#### 4. GALATIAN CHURCHES

- o Legalism—Judaizers saying they must follow Jewish law to become Christians

#### 5. PHILIPPI

- o Caring personally for others—helping and praying for Paul
- o Generous in giving—supporting Paul and probably giving to Jerusalem offering
- o Faithful—committed to spreading gospel
- o Possibly in danger of being susceptible to false teaching—Judaizers of false circumcision
- o Possibly the beginnings of dissension—Euodia and Syntyche

#### 6. COLOSSAE

- o Faithful to the gospel and love for the saints
- o Gospel is bearing fruit and increasing

#### 7. ROME

- o Global impact
  1. Through you faith is being proclaimed to all the world
  2. Cosmopolitan membership listed in chapter 16
- o But beware of deceptive, false teachers
- o Stay unified

#### 8. THESSALONICA

- o Came out of idolatry—to faith in Christ
- o Faithful in persecution
- o But doctrinally immature—vacillating about end-time doctrine

#### 9. JERUSALEM—**Book of James**

- o Favoritism—to the rich
- o Hearers—but not doers
- o Loose lips—difficulty controlling tongues [anger? gossip?]

- Divisiveness—why are there divisions among you—because of worldly lust
- Arrogant presumption about business and wealth
- Unethical mistreatment of workers underneath them