

# The 7 Letters to the 7 Churches: Key to Maturity in Christ

(Revelation 2 – 3)

## A. Introduction

1. The book of Revelation is about the return of Jesus as Bridegroom, King and Judge to take leadership of the earth in full partnership with a prepared Church.
  - a. There will be the greatest harvest of souls (Rev 14:14–16).
  - b. There will be the greatest release of God's power and judgement through the prayers of the saints (Rev 8:1 –6).
  - c. There will be the establishment of the Kingdom of God here on earth (Rev 20 – 22:5)
2. Revelation 1 – 5 is God's plan to prepare the Church to be ready as the Bride functioning as the House of Prayer (Rev 19:7, 22:17).
  - a. Revelation 1 gives us the clearest picture of who Jesus is at His Second Coming. This is to prepare the Church to know who He is when He returns.
  - b. Revelation 2 – 3 gives us the clearest picture of what Jesus wants in His Church. This is to prepare the church to be overcomers and to be His vessels at the End of the Age.
  - c. Revelation 4 – 5 gives us the clearest picture of how God operates and governs His Kingdom. This is to prepare the Church to partner with the Holy Spirit in prayer (Rev 22:17).
3. Revelation 6 – 18 is about God's plans in transitioning this Age to the Age-to-Come — the Millennial Kingdom. God gives detailed information about His plan to us so that we can partner with Him in executing His plans.

## B. Overview of Revelation 2 – 3

1. Revelation 2 – 3 are Jesus' letters to the seven Churches. This is one of the most important passages of Scripture in preparing the End-Time Church.
2. It is vital for us to study and understand the seven letters to the seven Churches in Revelation 2 – 3.
  - a. Revelation 2 – 3 gives us the clearest and most complete picture of what Jesus wants and what Jesus is looking for in His Church.

- b. Through the seven letters to the seven Churches, Jesus reveals seven specific areas that define a mature Bride and a prepared Church.
  - i. First love for Jesus (Rev 2:1–7);
  - ii. Fearless and faithful in the midst of persecution (Rev 2:8–11);
  - iii. Loving the truth and enduring sound doctrines (Rev 2:12–17);
  - iv. Perfecting holiness in the fear of God (Rev 2:18–29);
  - v. Being real, deep and authentic in our faith (Rev 3:1–6);
  - vi. Perseverance in obedience (Rev 3:7–13);
  - vii. Being passionate and zealous for Jesus (Rev 3:8–22).
- 3. All seven specific areas are so important to Jesus, He ends each letter by saying, “*He who has an ear, let Him hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.*”
  - a. He says this 16 times in the New Testament, and 7 times it is found in Revelation 2 – 3.
  - b. This exhortation emphasises that the truths in Revelation 2 – 3 are extremely important and we need to pay full attention to them.
  - c. We must not be casual or superficial in reading or studying it, but we must contend for understanding and be diligent in cultivating the 7 lifestyles.
- 4. Revelation 2 – 3 also defines for us the kind of Church that Jesus is building. It defines love, relevance, and spiritual maturity in Jesus’ terms. It gives us detailed information on:
  - a. What Jesus approved of in His Church — what He wants through His affirmations.
  - b. What Jesus disapproves of in His Church — what He dislikes through His rebukes and corrections.
  - c. What matters and what does not matter in the Kingdom of God through the 22 rewards.
- 5. Revelation 2 – 3 gives us Seven Prophetic Messages to instruct the Church on how to be prepared for the return of Jesus at His Second Coming.
  - a. The book of Revelation is about Jesus looking for overcomers to partner with Him (i.e. the saints).
  - b. The purpose of Revelation 2 – 3 is to exhort and prepare us to become overcomers. It defines for us what and how to be overcomers.
  - c. To overcome and to become overcomers are major themes in the Book of Revelation (key verse — Rev 14:12).