

Learn your Bible

Lesson 15

Can you image assembling at church one Lord's Day and receiving a letter **from Jesus himself**? Can you imagine it being addressed to your church? Well, it happened to seven churches! The book that today we call the Revelation is actually a letter or series of letters written to the seven churches of Asia. The main body of the book of Revelation (AKA the Apocalypse) is for all, but chapters 2 and 3 are seven "cover letters" for those seven churches.

These letters arrived in about 96 AD. The church had gone from it's infancy to maturity. The Christians of these churches were much like us. They had not seen the events of the Bible. They were "told" of the resurrection. The Apostles, (with the exception of John) were long dead.



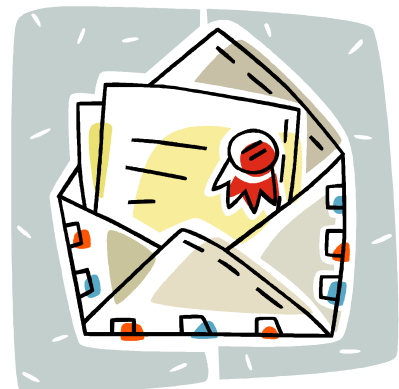
In a practical way, we could describe these letters as Jesus' evaluation of these churches. We hear a lot today about "this" or "that" making no difference (all churches being acceptable).

Jesus dictated these letters, **Himself!** Let's put the modern attitudes to the test.

Does it matter to Jesus whether your church follows the Word of God?

1. Read Revelation 1:9-18 Where was John? _____ Who appeared? _____ What was John's reaction? _____ What would your reaction be? _____

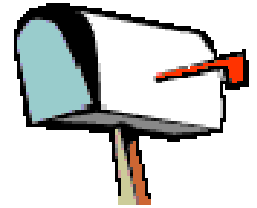
2. Read Revelation 2:1-7 Which church received this letter? _____



Vs 2-3 Was this a working church? _____ Did they put teachers/teachings/practices to the test?

_____ Did Jesus rebuke or compliment this? _____ Vs 4 What is Jesus' complaint?

_____ Vs 5 What is the "threat?"



Application. Will Jesus just ignore a problem in a church? _____ What do you suppose it meant to the people there if Jesus withdrew his acceptance of them? _____ Vs 6 Today we run from the term hate. Can it be appropriate to hate? _____ Is it appropriate to name names? _____ Does Jesus speak in such abstract terms they would have considered Him politically correct? _____

3. Read Revelation 2:8-11 Which church received this letter? _____ Is it possible on earth to operate in such a way that Jesus has no complaints? _____ What lay in store for them? _____ Did Jesus encourage them? _____ When Jesus "evaluated" them, did they pass? _____

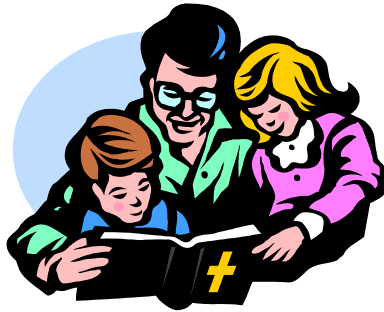
4. Read Revelation 2:12-17 Vs 12-13 Which church received this letter? _____ What happened there? _____ Vs 14 Does Jesus get upset over allowing false teaching in a church? _____



_____ When he describes said teaching, what does he use to characterize it? _____ What are the two key elements of this teaching given? _____ (Turn to I Corinthians 10:20-22 Does this scripture deal with Jesus' complaint? _____ Did this church "knowingly" ignore scripture? _____ Turn to I Corinthians 11:18-22 Do churches today ignore this scripture in the next chapter? _____) Read Revelation 2:15 closely. Are we supposed to note principles from scripture? _____ How large would the Bible be if it were

simply lists of every detail of what to do or not to do?
 _____ If our actions are “in the same way.” Should we be concerned? _____ This church is obviously ignoring I Corinthians 10:20-22... Would your church be wise to ignore I Corinthians 11:18-22? _____ Revelation 2:16 Would you like to be in that congregation?

5. Read Revelation 2:18-29 Which church received this letter?
 _____ Vs 18-19 Was this church more or less than when it began? _____ Vs 20 Should the church



be “tolerant” of teaching such of this? _____ What two fields of toleration are listed? _____ Which passage in I Corinthians deals with the eating sin described here? _____ Vs 22 if you support this church, how

does it affect you? _____ Vs 23 What does this mean for the children of this church? _____

6. Read Revelation 3:1-6 Which church received this letter?
 _____ Vs 1 despite the Name and the appearance is it possible for a church to be dead inside?

_____ Vs 2 How is deadness to be determined?
 _____ Vs 3 What are they to do? _____ Vs 4-6 Look closely at Vs 5 What is the implied threat? _____ Can the church’s actions affect your eternity?



7. Read Revelation 3:7-13 Vs 7-8 Who opens and closes doors for churches?

_____ Vs 9 are there those who claim to follow God that in fact do not? _____ Vs 10 are they commended for their new and different ways to serve God?

_____ What are they commended for?
 _____ Vs 11 What is possible for someone else to

do? _____ Can they do it against your will?
_____ What are you to do to resist? Vs 12
What should you strive to be? _____

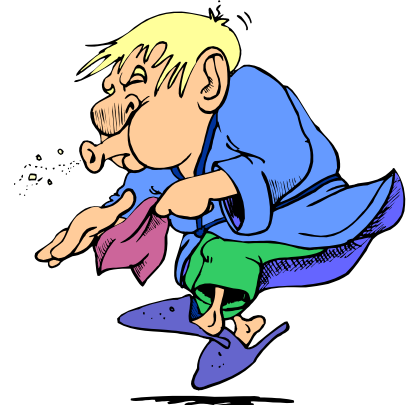
8. Read Revelation 3:14-22 What church
received this letter? _____ Vs 14-
16 What is the worst sin? _____
Is it fair to say this makes the Lord sick to
his stomach? _____

Vs 17 Can a church become so wrapped
up in wealth they miss the point?
_____ Does this sound like a lot
of churches today?

_____ Would
it be fair to say they put
their trust in wealth?

_____ Is Jesus jealous?

_____ Vs 18-22 What does
Jesus council them to do?



John 7:24.

"Do not judge according to appearance, but
judge with righteous judgment."

Application

9. Does Jesus evaluate churches?

10. Should you use the same standards Jesus
uses to evaluate churches? _____

11. Does it appear that one church is as good
as another in the eyes of Jesus?



12 Read II Thessalonians 2:1-13 Does it appear that God expected there to be a departure from the truth? _____
 Sometimes the Bible is addressed to churches, sometimes individuals. What makes up a church? _____ Vs 3
 What must happen before the end? _____
 People have constantly tried to figure out what specific point in history this is referring to. Let's ignore that for this study and look at the principles that emerge. Is it important for you to identify and avoid apostasy? _____ Vs 5 Did Paul warn of such things to his generation? _____ Shouldn't we do the same? _____ Vs 9 is the grandiose display to be a part of the presentation of erroneous teaching? _____

(Compare Vs 9 to the teaching of Jesus Matthew 7:13-14 What is one of the earmarks of most false teaching? _____)

II Thessalonians 2:10 what is the fatal flaw of those who loose out? _____

Vs 11 is there a sense in which God can be said to be behind this? _____ Vs 12 Why would God allow such a thing? _____



II Corinthians 5:12.

We are not again commending ourselves to you but {are} giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have {an answer} for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart.

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