

Christ in the Midst of His Churches
Rev. 2:1-17

I. His Message to Ephesus – 2:1-7

1. Addressed to angel of the church – 1
He is the Lord's messenger to the church
The one who is in the Lord's right hand
The one who speaks with the Lord's authority
2. One who is giving this message – 1
One who holds 7 stars in His right hand
He is authoritative Lord – Head of the Church –
Col. 1:18
3. As Lord, Jesus speaks to the church – 1
One who walks in midst of 7 lampstands
He sees all that is happening in this church
4. Words of commendation for Ephesus – 2-3
"I know your works and your toil"
They were a strong, active, working church
Whole province of Asia heard the Gospel –
Acts 19:10
They also showed patient endurance
Faithfully ministered for Christ
5. They dealt with heresy - 2
Dealt with those who taught false doctrine
Even those who were false apostles
6. They faithfully served with patient endurance – 3
They did it for their Lord's sake
Did not grow weary
7. The Lord expresses one concern – 4
"You have abandoned the love you had at first"
Love is basic to our relationship with Jesus Christ
8. A call for repentance – 5
Remember the love you had for Christ
Repent and renew that love & what that love
prompted in you
9. Your present path has serious consequences – 5
"I will come and remove you as a lampstand, unless
you repent"
10. Closing word of encouragement – 6
He is pleased, they hated works of Nicolaitans -6
Which He also hates
We may not know exactly what that was but it is
important to know
They were in harmony with Him
11. A word to all who have listening ears - 7
Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to you
Consider your love for Him who loves you
God will reward those who truly love Jesus
With the tree of life in the paradise of God –
Rev. 22:1-2

II. His Message to Smyrna – 2:8-11

1. The One who speaks is He who is first & last– 8
The One who died and came to life
2. As such, He is able to comfort those who suffer– 9
He is aware of their suffering, under persecution

- He is aware of their poverty (but wants them to know
"they are rich")
They are under persecution from Jews
In reality these Jews are a synagogue of Satan
3. He challenges them "Do not fear" – 10
Satan will attack & throw some of you into prison
God will allow you to be tested for a period of time
If you prove faithful in this time I (Jesus) will give you
the crown of life
 4. A promise to those who listen – 11
"One who conquers will not be hurt by the second
death"– Rev. 20:14-15
The persecuted church needs to stand strong in
Christ

III. His Message to Pergamum – 2:12-17

1. The Lord comes with the sharp two-edged sword– 12
There are issues to be dealt with in this church
2. He knows where they are dwelling – 13
The city of Pergamum was a stronghold of Satan
Yet He commends them for their faithfulness
They have held fast to the name of Christ
They did not deny my faith even in the days of
Antipas
Who was martyred where Satan dwells
3. But Jesus has a few things against them – 14-15
Some in your church hold to the teaching of Balaam-14
Who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before
sons of Israel
So they would eat food sacrificed to idols
And practice sexual immorality
Some also hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans – 15
Is this similar to what Balaam taught?
This is what Our Lord hates – 2:6
This is the compromising church – allowing false
doctrine to creep in
4. A call to repentance – 16
If they do not repent Jesus says He will come with His
Sword, of His mouth
And war against them
5. Christ' word to those who listen – 17
To those who conquer I will reward
I will give them some of the hidden manna
I will give them a white stone with a new name
written on it that no one knows except the one
who receives it