

Bible Helps

7 Churches of Asia Minor

What are the seven churches of Asia Minor and where kind I find them?

They are Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamon, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.
Revelation 2-3.

Why are these churches important?

These seven congregations are important for a few different reasons. First of all, by the time the book of Revelation was composed these churches had been in existence for a good while. As far as we know, not one of them was what we would call a new “church plant.” They were seasoned and had been through the ups and downs of church life. We can learn a lot about life as a local church from observing their victories and struggles. As a local church we always need to be learning from others. So in paying close attention to these churches we can see which paths to walk down and which ones to stay away from.

The second reason why these churches are important has to do with who wrote to them. Each church received a letter from Jesus. In each letter He offered words of rebuke along with words of affirmation and encouragement. These letters give us an inside look into what Jesus thinks about the church. One thing that stands out about them is how precise each one is. The fact that Jesus is all-knowing really comes out in every sentence. Jesus knows His people better than they know themselves. So whenever He speaks, we should sit up and listen.

Is there something each church was known for?

Yes, each one of these churches struggled or excelled in a certain area. Consider the following:

Ephesus: the church that had forsaken its first love.

Smyrna: the church that suffered persecution.

Pergamum: the church that compromised.

Thyatira: the church that was led astray by false teaching.

Sardis: the church that had not truly been awakened with the Gospel.

Philadelphia: the church that endured patiently.

Laodicia: the church that was lukewarm.

What are some helpful resources if I want to study Revelation 2-3 on my own?

What Christ Thinks of the Church by John Stott

What Would Jesus Say about your Church? by Richard Mayhue