

<u>Names of the Churches</u>	<u>Virtues Commended</u>	<u>Sins and Weaknesses Rebuked</u>	<u>Required Action</u>	<u>Historical Era</u>	<u>Conditions in Churches Today</u>
Ephesus The loveless church Rev. 2:1-7	Good works, patience, sound doctrine, church discipline, hatred of evil	Very active but left first love	Repent, return to first works	Apostolic Age	Active churches, overemphasizing orthodoxy, lacking in spiritual fervor
Smyrna The persecuted church Rev 2:8-11	Spiritual endurance Heavenly treasure	No reproof Danger of living in fear	Do not fear, be faithful until death	The early centuries of persecution	Missionary and other churches enduring persecution
Pergamum The compromising church Rev 2:12-17	Perseverance in evil environment	Compromising with false doctrines, heretics and sin	Repent	From Constantine with Roman Empire approval	Churches endorsed by the government and culture
Thyatira The corrupt church Rev 2:18-29	Love, spiritual service, faith and patience	Lax discipline, tolerant of deception and sin	Do not tolerate falsehood and sin, hold fast	The age of papal apostasy and power	Development of numerous cults and factions
Sardis The dying church Rev 3:1-6	Little commended except for the purity of a few	Extreme formalism, spiritual death imminent, inactivity	Strengthen what remains, hold fast and repent	The Middle Ages into the Reformation	Churches which manifest growing formalism, spiritual decline
Philadelphia The faithful church Rev 3:7-13	Kept Christ's word and not denied His name	No reproof	Hold fast what you have	The Great Awakening of the Evangelical Church	All earnest, spiritual and biblical churches
Laodicea The lukewarm church Rev 3;14-22	None recorded	Lukewarmness, no conscious need, spiritual poverty, blindness	Be zealous and repent, buy gold, white garments, eye salve	Last days and age of Liberal Theology	Popular, self-satisfied, worldly, form with little power

Seven Similarities of the seven letters:

- 1) All begin with a specific title of Jesus Christ
- 2) All are addressed to the “angel” or messenger, pastor of each church
- 3) All begin with Jesus knowing their works.
- 4) All contain either a commendation, an appeal or both.
- 5) All contain an indication of Jesus’ second coming
- 6) All close with a special promise or reward to those who overcome
- 7) All close with the same challenge – he who has ears let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Remember, repent and do the first works. Rev 2:4,5

- 1) God has loved us first – 1 Jn 4:19; Rom 5:5,8; Eph 2:1-5
- 2) Love God and one another whole-heartedly – Matt 22:37-40
- 3) Back to Paul’s letter to the church:
- 4) Keep the unity of the Spirit – 4:3
- 5) Speak the truth in love – 4:15
- 6) Give no place to the devil, stand in Christ – 4:27; 6:10-18
- 7) Be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving to all – 4:32
- 8) Walk in love – 5:2
- 9) Be filled with the Spirit – 5:18

First Love prompts us to:

- 1) Worship – Ps 95:6; Matt 4:10; John 4:23, 24
- 2) Thanksgiving – Ps 100:4; 107:22; Col 1:12; 2:7; 3:15; 1 Thess 5:18
- 3) Sit at Jesus’ feet and enjoy His presence – Luke 10:38-42; Ps 27:4; 63:1
- 4) Love His Word – Ps 119; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim 2:15; 3:16; 4:2
- 5) Holy living – Heb 12:14; 2 Pet 3:11
- 6) Joyfully share our earthly treasures – Matt 26:7; Lk 21:4; Ac 4:34
- 7) Patience – Ps 130:6; Jms 5:7
- 8) Love and anticipate His return- Matt 24:44; Mk 13:35; Phil 1:23

Be watchful for: Rev 3:2

- 1) The prowling lion, Satan – 1 Pet 5:8, Eph 6:10-13
- 2) Encroaching sin – Matt 26:41; 2 Tim 2:22
- 3) Every opportunity to witness – Jn 9:4; Acts 3:12; 2 Tim 4:2
- 4) Unexpected coming of Christ – Matt 24:42; Mk 13:37; 2 Thess 5:6
- 5) Your last day – Lk 12:15-21; Ro 14:12; 1 Pet 4:5