

# Exhortations for All Believers!

*NKJV Notes by Pastor Mike Sasso*

## Introduction

Seven times to seven churches Jesus said, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). We have learned that these messages are for every one of us to hear and take heed. So, in today’s study we will pause to get a bird’s eye view of Jesus’ messages to these churches.

Home Group Leaders are encouraged to assign their group to do a seven-day devotional reviewing the letters to the seven churches by reading through one of the seven churches each day. Here is the general plan...

### **For your personal and private devotion time:**

Read through the letters to the seven churches once more. Read through one letter to one church each day starting with chapter two and ask yourself the following questions after your reading.

1. How does this letter apply to me personally?
2. If Jesus were to write a letter to me today, what would it say?
3. What changes need to take place in my life in order for me to be pleasing in God’s sight?
4. Am I willing to change?
5. What then will I do as a result of what I have learned from this letter?

### **For today’s Home Group study, review the various interpretations and applications of the first three chapters:**

We have seen in our study of the seven churches that there have been a variety of interpretations and applications.

For instance, we know that these seven churches were actual, historical churches that existed in John’s day. This is called the “Historical application.” There is no debate over this view. [Click here for an outside link giving an example and more info.](#)

It is also true that we can find personal application from each letter to each church. This is especially true since Jesus ends each letter with “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Thus, this “Personal application” can be made to each individual personally or to individual church groups when appropriate. As the saying goes, “If the shoe fits, wear it.”

Finally, there have been those who see a “Prophetic application” to these seven letters. Those who hold this view believe that each church represents a specific age in church history. This view is controversial and not all scholars agree that the progression of the seven churches truly

fit actual church history, especially considering the picture of church history outside of Europe. [Click here for an example of this theory.](#)

[Click here and scroll to the end of the page for another well-done overview of these chapters.](#)

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

This study will depart from our usual format in order to take a broad overview of what we have already studied. We will not provide you with study notes, but rather study questions to work through as a group to discover and review the crucial lessons in these chapters. Try to move quickly to keep this study in overview mode.

### Chapter 1

1. What are some important facts this chapter reveals about the character of Jesus Christ?
2. Which verse is said to be the “divine outline” of the entire book of revelation? Read this verse aloud and discuss its logical interpretation.

### Chapter 2

**1. The church of Ephesus** – Read aloud 2:1-11. Then discuss the following questions...

- a. What was right with this church?
- b. What was wrong with this church?
- c. What would an Ephesus-type church or Christian look like today?
- d. What is Jesus’ remedy to this Ephesian problem?

**2. The church of Smyrna** – Read aloud 2:8-11. Then discuss the following questions...

- a. What was right with this church?
- b. What was wrong with this church?
- c. What would a Smyrna-type church or Christian look like today?
- d. What was the Smyrnian told to do?

**3. The church of Pergamos** – Read aloud 2:12-17. Then discuss the following questions...

- a. What was right with this church?
- b. What was wrong with this church?

- c. What would a Pergamos-type church or Christian look like today?
- d. What is Jesus' remedy to the Pergamos problem?

**4. The church of Thyatira** – Read aloud 2:18-29. Then discuss the following questions...

- a. What was right with this church?
- b. What was wrong with this church?
- c. What would a Thyatira-type church or Christian look like today?
- d. What was Jesus' remedy to the Thyatira problem?

### **Chapter 3**

**5. The church of Sardis** – Read aloud 3:1-6. Then discuss the following questions...

- a. What was right with this church?
- b. What was wrong with this church?
- c. What would a Sardis-type church or Christian look like today?
- d. What was Jesus' remedy to the Sardis problem?

**6. The church of PHILADELPHIA** – read aloud 3:7-13. Then discuss the following questions...

- a. What was right with this church?
- b. What was wrong with this church?
- c. What would a Philadelphia-type church or Christian look like today?
- d. What was the Philadelphian told to do?

**7. The church of Laodicea** – Read aloud 3:14-22. Then discuss the following questions...

- a. What was right with this church?
- b. What was wrong with this church?
- c. What would a Laodicea-type church or Christian look like today?
- d. What was Jesus' remedy to the Laodicean problem?

8. What do you consider to be the most important reoccurring lessons for us today through out the letters to the seven churches?

**CONCLUSION:**

Often throughout the scriptures the reader is reminded that he must pay attention as these words are for all (Deut. 29:4; Ezek. 12:2; Matt. 11:15, 13:9, 13:43; Mark 4:9, 4:23, 7:16; Luke 8:8, 14:35). The book of Revelation is often ignored or avoided because it is considered confusing or controversial by most Christians. Yet we are commanded to hear and heed the exhortations written to the seven churches (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). There may indeed be events recorded in this book that are controversial or even “uncertain” to the average reader. But one thing is for sure. The messages to the seven churches are clear and convicting. He who avoids or ignores these messages is spiritually negligent!

With Ears Open,  
*Mike Sasso*