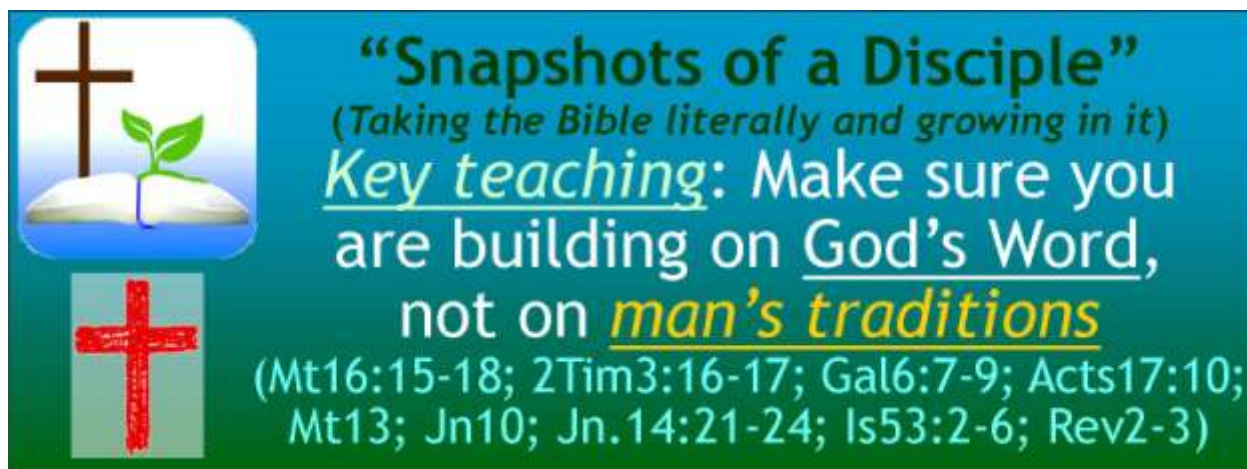




“Snapshots of a Disciple”
(Taking the Bible literally and growing in it)
Key teaching: Make sure you
 are building on God's Word,
 not on man's traditions
 (Mt16:15-18; 2Tim3:16-17; Gal6:7-9; Acts17:10;
 Mt13; Jn10; Jn.14:21-24; Is53:2-6; Rev2-3)

Verses on the "Church Age"

[The time from just after Jesus' resurrection till the end of the up-coming seven-year Tribulation.]

Introductory notes:

Please keep in mind that Jesus' 7 letters to the 7 churches are not just written to/for old ancient and archaic cities. A study of the whole Book of Revelation, in context with God's Word, shows that the Book of Revelation (written in AD 90s) is the literal chronology of the days from Christ's death till the replacement of this sin-cursed earth, and the start of the New Heaven and New earth (Revelation 21-22).

So, What Jesus had the apostle John write down was three-fold:

A) an actual letter that was delivered and read in the collection of church-gatherings (ecclesia/ekklesia) in/to an actual city

B) a "type" of "category" of church - meaning the category of churches that were similar in style and sin-problems as those in Ephesus, and the other churches.

C) as well as a stage in the "church age" (a total period lasting about 2000 years. The letter to Ephesus is the first of those 7-stages of the church age, and the letter to Laodicea is the last one, and each of those in between are in chronological order (Revelation 2 and 3). Lord-willing, soon, I plan to make progress on until I can complete and publish/post my active study on Jesus' letters to these church-gatherings in each city, as well as what Jesus rebuked them for, His direction to correct the sin-problems, as well as other passages that help us learn from these teachings... But, I'm still in the study stage on that. In God's timing - hopefully soon. This is just the passages and the short notes.

With that short intro, here are Jesus' letters to each of the 7 churches, in order, with short notes.

Jesus' letter to the collection of church-gatherings in the city of Ephesus

"¹ To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ² I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. ⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent. ⁶ But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.'" (Revelation 2:1-7)

>> **Key theme:** encouragements, exhortations and rebukes to a church that has abandoned their first love for Christ, replacing serving Christ with just serving - forgetting the pure heart-commitment behind the actions

Main hearers: The genuine followers of Christ in end of the early church that Jesus started, led by Paul and Peter and John and the other apostles.

Jesus' letter to the collection of church-gatherings in the city of Smyrna

"⁸ And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: ⁹ I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.'" (Revelation 2:8-11)

>> **Key theme:** encouragements and teachings for those in physical persecution.

Main hearers: the genuine followers of Christ in the physically persecuted church.

Jesus' letter to the collection of church-gatherings in the city of Pergamus

"¹² And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: ¹³ I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶ Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. ¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a

new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

(Revelation 2:12-17)

>> **Key theme:** rebukes to a church whose starting to be given over to idolatry and idol-worship, the starts of the Nicolaitans are starting to dominate the church, teaching doctrines of demons, and excusing sexual immorality

Main hearers: the genuine followers of Christ in the spiritually compromising church.

Jesus' letter to the collection of church-gatherings in the city of Thyatira

¹⁸ And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: ¹⁹ I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. ²⁰ Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹ And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

²² Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³ I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. ²⁴ Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. ²⁵ But hold fast what you have till I come. ²⁶ And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations- ²⁷ 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'-- as I also have received from My Father; ²⁸ and I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

(Revelation 2:18-29)

>> **Key theme:** rebukes to a church whose collapsing into full idolatry and idol-worship, sexual sins, and other wickedness, under the watch of the ruling Nicolaitans, and false prophets and false prophetesses.

Main hearers: the genuine followers of Christ in the spiritually corrupt church

Jesus' letter to the collection of church-gatherings in the city of Sardis

¹ And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ³ Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. ⁴ You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" (Revelation 3:1-6)

>> **Key theme**: rebukes to a church that is doing so much sin with little care for repentance - even going so far as to murder and attempt to murder any and all who would teach and explain God's Word about sin, repentance and judgment to come.

Main hearers: the genuine followers of Christ in the spiritually dead church

Jesus' letter to the collection of church-gatherings in the city of Philadelphia

"⁷ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": ⁸ I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. ⁹ Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie -- indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. ¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. ¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" (Revelation 3:7-13)

>> **Key theme**: encouragement to the genuine believers in a community who are growing in holiness and sharing the gospel and studying and teaching the Word of God

Main hearers: the genuine followers of Christ in the spiritually faithful church

Jesus' letter to the collection of church-gatherings in the city of Laodicea

"¹⁴ And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" (Revelation 3:14-22)

>> **Key theme**: rebukes to a church that has gotten lazy in holiness, does open sin while saying they follow Christ, new form of the spiritually corrupt church

Main hearers: the genuine followers of Jesus Christ in the spiritually idolatrous and pagan, lukewarm church

Ephesus



1st ❤️ = ✝️

Smyrna



🔥 + 🙏 = 👑
refining faithful eternal crown

Pergamos



"a little leaven"
= compromise

THYATIRA



SINS ➡ CORRUPTION

Sardis



empty actions & praise
= spiritually dead

Philadelphia



simple faith + fear of Lord
+ holiness = spiritually alive

Laodicea



doing what's right in
your eyes = lukewarm