

LEARNING FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

Revelation 2-3

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What do you already know, or what do you remember about the seven churches addressed in [Revelation 2-3](#)?
- Do you think living out your Christian faith in secular culture is easy or hard? Why?

Living out our Christian faith in a secular culture always demands discernment. Though we might wish we could easily discern the right course of action from the wrong one easily, it is often not the case. The attitude of our hearts is often as important as the words we say or the actions we choose. As we discover in John's messages to the seven churches of Revelation, even the very first Christians struggled to get it right. Join us to study the heart of the messages conveyed to those seven early congregations, and together we can consider what these messages might still have to say to the church today.

Listen: [Learning from the Seven Churches of Revelation](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Are there ways in which you think we Christians today are compromising our faith in order to fit into our culture? What about you in particular—is there an area of your life in which you find yourself tempted to compromise your faith in order to fit into your culture?
- Most of us do not live in cultures that sacrifice meat to idols, but the lesson on idolatry from this chapter still applies. What things or situations today might make a Christian or church guilty of idolatrous compromise?
- Reflect on the “heart” of each message for the seven churches, as summarized by Dr. Jeff Weima (Ephesus: the church of loveless orthodoxy, Pergamum and Thyatira: the church(es) of idolatrous compromise, Smyrna and Philadelphia: the church(es) of the persevering persecuted, Sardis: the church of deadly complacency, and Laodicea: the church of vomit and vanity) and consider the following questions:
 - Did you feel a twinge of conviction as you reflected on any of his descriptions? Does the experience of any particular church resonate with you? Why do you think that is?
 - Which message would most address the current situation in your local church? Why? What do you think a sermon like this would say to your church today?
 - Do you recognize the concerns from any of these messages in your own life of faith or in the life of the global church still today? If so, where?

Related Passages

- 1 Corinthians 8
- 1 Corinthians 12
- 1 John 4:7-21
- Acts 15:22-35

Conclusion

As *Groundwork* hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney, and guest co-host Dr. Jeff Weima discussed, the seven sermons to these seven early Christian churches continue to be relevant to our faith and our churches yet today. As Jeff said at the end of the episodes, “There is a word of warning for the Church today to kind of wake up and to recommit themselves to Christ, and by his Spirit to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches, not only of Asia Minor but to the Church today.”

As you studied the letters to the seven churches, what encouraged you? What concerns or warnings do you take to heart? Pray through your responses to these questions and the reflections above. As you close, hear Jesus’ note of grace from [Revelation 3:20](#) again, “I am knocking at the door; I want to come in and have dinner with you.”

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