

“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. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.”

Revelation 2:20-21

# Report Card Summary

# Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

# Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

X

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

# Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

X

X

Smyrna

Pergamos

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Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
Pergamos		
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Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
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Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
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Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
Pergamos	X	X
Thyatira		
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
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# The Revelation

# The Revelation

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

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The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

# The Revelation

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

# The Revelation

The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

To all Churches

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Local

To all Churches

Personal

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The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

How does this apply to us today?

Local

To all Churches

Personal

Prophetic

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The Seven Letters from Christ to His Church

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Local

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**Prophetic**

# The Revelation

Prophetic

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## Prophetic

These seven letters to the seven churches lay out church history for us in advance.

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They tell us about the times in which we live, what Christ is pleased with and what He is not.

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These seven letters to the seven churches lay out church history for us in advance.

They tell us about the times in which we live, what Christ is pleased with and what He is not.

If they were listed in any other order it would not fit.

# The Design of the Letters

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## 1. The Name of the Church

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1. The Name of the Church
2. The Title of Christ Used

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5. Exhortation
6. A Promise to the Overcomer
7. The Closing (“He who has an ear...”)

The order of the last two sometimes switched.

Ephesus

# Ephesus

Name means “desired one” or “darling”

# Ephesus

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Hence, even the Church Fathers are not a reliable model for us today.

This time frame runs from the birth of the church until the turn of the first century, 30 AD to 100 AD.

# Ephesus – Report Card

# Ephesus – Report Card

The Lord said both good and bad things about the church in Ephesus.

# Ephesus – Report Card

The Lord said both **good** and bad things about the church in Ephesus.

# Ephesus – Report Card

The Lord said both **good** and **bad** things about the church in Ephesus.

# Report Card Summary

# Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

# Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

X

Smyrna

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Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna		
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Smyrna

# Smyrna

Smyrna means “suffering” or “death”

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The Hebrew root of the word is translated “myrrh”

# Smyrna

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This time frame runs from the turn of the first century until the Edict of Milan, later known as the Edict of Toleration, by Emperor Constantine in 312 AD.

# Smyrna

The letter to the church at Smyrna represents the persecuted church that suffered horribly under the 10 great Roman persecutions.

This time frame runs from the turn of the first century until the Edict of Milan, later known as the Edict of Toleration, by Emperor Constantine in 312 AD.

It spans from 100 AD to 312 AD.

# Smyrna – Report Card

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The Lord only had good things to say about the church in Smyrna— nothing bad.

# Smyrna – Report Card

The Lord only had **good** things to say about the church in Smyrna– nothing bad.

# Report Card Summary

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Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna		
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Smyrna	X	
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Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
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Pergamos

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It represents the marriage of the church and state where the state elevates the church to a place of acceptance or political correctness at the expense of the church’s devotion to God.

# Pergamos

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This period of the church ran from 312 AD to 606 AD.

# Pergamos – Report Card

# Pergamos – Report Card

The Lord has both good and bad things to say about the church at Pergamos.

# Pergamos – Report Card

The Lord has both **good** and bad things to say about the church at Pergamos.

# Pergamos – Report Card

The Lord has both **good** and **bad** things to say about the church at Pergamos.

# Report Card Summary

Good

Bad

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

# Report Card Summary

Good

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Thyatira represents the church of the middle ages, the Catholic Church.

Let's review the Lord's letter to this church.

Thyatira – Name of Christ

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“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:”

Revelation 2:18

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# Thyatira – Good News

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“I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.”

Revelation 2:19

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“I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.”

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# Thyatira – Bad News

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“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. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.”

Revelation 2:20-21

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Revelation 2:20-21

# Thyatira – Bad News

“Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into (what) great tribulation, (condition) unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all (what) 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.”

Revelation 2:22-23

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# Thyatira – Exhortation

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“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. But hold fast what you have till (when) I come.”

Revelation 2:24-25

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# Thyatira – Promise and Closing

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“And he who overcomes, and (what) keeps My works until (when) the end, to him I will give power over the nations— *‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’*— as I also “and I will give him the morning star.”

Revelation 2:26-28

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Revelation 2:26-28

# Thyatira – Promise and Closing

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“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 2:29

# Thyatira – Promise and Closing

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Unlike the letters before, this time the promise to the overcomers comes before the closing and not after.

# Thyatira – Promise and Closing

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Why do you think that is?

Thyatira – Name of Christ

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and His feet like fine brass:”

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as) who has eyes like a flame of fire,  
and His feet like fine brass:”

Revelation 2:18

# Thyatira – Name of Christ

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Why is that important?

# Thyatira – Name of Christ

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like (who) the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire.

Revelation 1:12-14

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What does this mean?

# Thyatira – Name of Christ

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined (how) in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

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And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

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# Thyatira – Name of Christ

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse.  
And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True,  
and in righteousness He judges and makes war.  
His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head  
were many crowns. He had a name written that  
no one knew except Himself.

Revelation 19:11-12

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Revelation 19:11-12

Jesus is coming in judgment as the Son of God.

# Thyatira – Good News

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“I know (1492) your (1) works, (2) love, (3) service, (4) faith, and your (5) patience; and as for your works, (6) the last are more than the first.”

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Jesus judges all of His churches by what they do (works), and not what they say.

Does He judge His church today the same way?

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It is the natural response of the church to the Lord of that church. It is nothing extraordinary or praiseworthy, but expected as a reasonable, or spiritual service to Him (see Romans 12:1-2).

“I Know Your Works”

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Ephesus

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Ephesus

“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; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.”

Revelation 2:2-3

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“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.”

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“I Know Your Works”

Pergamos

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“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.”

Revelation 2:13

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Revelation 2:13

“I Know Your Works”

Sardis

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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  
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Revelation 3:1

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“I Know Your Works”

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“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.”

Revelation 3:8

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“I Know Your Works”

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“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

Revelation 3:15-16

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The word for “love” is *agapē*.

This is the first, and only time, it has been used by Jesus in His letters to describe one of His churches.

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Faith translates “*pístis*” and describes one who has “firm conviction and belief in the truth, and one who is faithful and trustworthy.”

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Or, “to persevere, to remain under, to bear up under, endurance as to things or circumstances.”

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Consider the following:

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This period runs from 607 AD (when Boniface III was made the first pope) until the tribulation.

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1950 – Assumption of the Virgin Mary

1965 – Mary proclaimed Mother of the Church

# Thyatira – Prophetic

And it gets worse.

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Especially when you consider the  
history of the Popes.

Popes

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Leo I (440-461), declared himself Lord of the whole church, advocated exclusive universal papacy, resistance to his authority was a sure path to Hell, and he advocated the death penalty for heresy.

# Popes

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The 200 years between Nicholas I and Gregory VII (870-1050) are called the “Midnight of the Dark Ages.” Bribery, corruption, immorality, and bloodshed mark this black chapter of the church.

# Popes

Sergius III (904-911) had a mistress, Marozia. She, her mother Theodora, and her sisters filled the Papal chair with illegitimate sons and turned the Papal den into a den of robbers. This is called in history the “Rule of the Harlots” (904-963).

# Popes

John X (914-928) was brought from Ravenna to Rome and made Pope by Theodora for her more convenient gratification. He was smothered to death by Marozia, who then in succession raised to the Papacy Leo VI (928-929), Stephen VII (929-931), and John XI (931-936), her own illegitimate son.

# Popes

Another of her sons appointed the four following Popes: Leo VII (936-939), Stephen VIII (939-942), Martin III (942-946), and Agapetus II (946-955). John XII (955-963), a grandson of Marozia, was guilty of almost every crime imaginable. He violated virgins and widows, lived with his father's mistress, made the Papal Palace a brothel, and was killed while in the act of adultery by the woman's enraged husband.

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Benedict IX (1022-1045) was made Pope as a boy 12 years old, through a money bargain with the powerful families. He committed murders and adulteries in broad daylight; robbed pilgrims on the graves of martyrs; a hideous crime. The people drove him out of Rome. Some call him the worst of all the Popes.

# Popes

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Innocent III (1198-1216) was the most powerful of all the Popes. He claimed to be “Vicar of Christ,” “Vicar of God,” and “Supreme Sovereign over the Church and the World.”

# Popes

The Inquisition, called “The Holy Office,” was instituted by Pope Innocent III and perfected by Pope Gregory IX. Under it everyone was required to inform against heretics. Anyone suspect was liable to torture, without knowing the name of his accuser. The proceedings were secret.

# Popes

For 500 years the Inquisition was the most diabolical thing of human history. For the record, none of the subsequent line of “holy” and “infallible” Popes have ever apologized for the Inquisition. Rather, their leadership and instigators have been elevated to sainthood.

# Popes

It is recorded that in the 30 years between 1540 and 1570, for example, no fewer than 900,000 Protestants were put to death by the Pope's Inquisition.

# Popes

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Boniface VIII (1294-1303), in his famous Bul, Unam Sanctam, said, “We declare, affirm, define, and pronounce that it is altogether necessary for salvation that every creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff.”

There was no salvation apart from blind obedience to the Pope and the Catholic church.

# Popes

John XXIII (1410-1415), called by some the most depraved criminal who ever sat on the Papal throne, was guilty of almost every crime. As Cardinal in Bologna, 200 maidens, nuns and married women fell victim to his amours; as Pope he violated virgins and nuns; lived in adultery with his brother's wife; was guilty of sodomy and other nameless vices; bought the Papal Office; sold Cardinalates to children of wealthy families; and openly denied the future life.

# Popes

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Paul II (1464-1471) “filled his house with concubines.”

# Popes

Sixtus IV (1471-1484): sanctioned the Spanish Inquisition, decreed that money would deliver souls from Purgatory, was implicated in a plot to murder Lorenzo de Medici and others who opposed his policies, and used the Papacy to enrich himself and his relatives. He made eight of his nephews Cardinals while some of them were mere boys.

# Popes

Innocent VIII (1484-1492) had 16 children by various married women. He multiplied church offices and sold them for vast sums of money, decreed the extermination of the Waldenses, appointed the brutal Thomas of Torquemada Inquisitor General of Spain, and ordered all rulers to deliver up heretics to him.

# Popes

Alexander VI (1492-1503) is called the most corrupt Pope: licentious and depraved; he bought the Papacy, made many new cardinals for money, had a number of illegitimate children whom he openly acknowledged and appointed to high church office while they were yet children— and they with their father murdered cardinals and others who stood in their way. He had for a mistress a sister of the cardinal who became the next Pope, Pius III (1503).

Thyatira

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Report Card Summary:

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Good

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Laodicea

# Report Card Summary

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# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
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Laodicea		

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
Pergamos		
Thyatira		
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
Pergamos		
Thyatira		
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
Pergamos	X	
Thyatira		
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
Pergamos	X	X
Thyatira		
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
Pergamos	X	X
Thyatira	X	
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>
Ephesus	X	X
Smyrna	X	
Pergamos	X	X
Thyatira	X	X
Sardis		
Philadelphia		
Laodicea		

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	
Ephesus	X	X	
Smyrna	X		
Pergamos	X	X	
Thyatira	X	X	
Sardis			Reformation
Philadelphia			
Laodicea			

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	
Ephesus	X	X	
Smyrna	X		
Pergamos	X	X	
Thyatira	X	X	
Sardis		X	Reformation
Philadelphia			
Laodicea			

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	
Ephesus	X	X	
Smyrna	X		
Pergamos	X	X	
Thyatira	X	X	
Sardis		X	Reformation
Philadelphia			
Laodicea			

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	
Ephesus	X	X	
Smyrna	X		
Pergamos	X	X	
Thyatira	X	X	
Sardis		X	Reformation
Philadelphia	X		
Laodicea			

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	
Ephesus	X	X	
Smyrna	X		
Pergamos	X	X	
Thyatira	X	X	
Sardis		X	Reformation
Philadelphia	X		
Laodicea			

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	
Ephesus	X	X	
Smyrna	X		
Pergamos	X	X	
Thyatira	X	X	
Sardis		X	Reformation
Philadelphia	X		
Laodicea			Now!

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	
Ephesus	X	X	
Smyrna	X		
Pergamos	X	X	
Thyatira	X	X	
Sardis		X	Reformation
Philadelphia	X		
Laodicea		X	Now!

# Report Card Summary

	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	
Ephesus	X	X	
Smyrna	X		
Pergamos	X	X	
Thyatira	X	X	
Sardis		X	Reformation
Philadelphia	X		
Laodicea		X	Now!

Thyatira

# Thyatira

How can the Lord have anything good to say about a church filled with so much corruption and have nothing to say about the church (us) that shed our own blood to remove ourselves from that corruption?

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How can the Lord have anything good to say about a church filled with so much corruption and have nothing to say about the church (us) that shed our own blood to remove ourselves from that corruption?

How is that possible?

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How can the Lord have anything good to say about a church filled with so much corruption and have nothing to say about the church (us) that shed our own blood to remove ourselves from that corruption?

How is that possible?

Is there something we're missing?

# Thyatira

How can the Lord have anything good to say about a church filled with so much corruption and have nothing to say about the church (us) that shed our own blood to remove ourselves from that corruption?

How is that possible?

Is there something we're missing?

I think so.

# Thyatira

The point is not the corruption of the church of Thyatira and what it represents, which our Lord addresses in His letter, as much as it is something they must be doing that we are not.

# Thyatira

The point is not the corruption of the church of Thyatira and what it represents, which our Lord addresses in His letter, as much as it is something they must be doing that we are not.

And if that is true, then we must re-think everything.

# Thyatira

The point is not the corruption of the church of Thyatira and what it represents, which our Lord addresses in His letter, as much as it is something they must be doing that we are not.

And if that is true, then we must re-think everything.

That's what we'll be looking at next week.

