

History

Seeing Jesus in Revelation (and Hearing His Voice)



Assignment

Next Sabbath we will continue our series on the book of Revelation titled *Finding Jesus in Revelation (and Hearing His Voice)* with a message titled *History*.

The Seven Churches of **Revelation 2 – 3** have long been seen as representing the various periods of the Christian Church from the time of Christ down to our present time. As such, it shows the hand of Jesus in the history of His Church as well as its ups and downs.

From this view, it is clear we are in the time of the last church, Laodicea. This can be both exciting and frightening. Here is a breakdown of the approximate times of each church.

- **Ephesus:** *The Apostolic Church* (from Christ to about A.D. 100)
 - **Smyrna:** *The Persecuted Church* (100 – 313)
 - **Pergamum:** *The Compromising, Exalted Church* (313 – 538)
 - **Thyatira:** *The Church in the Wilderness* ending in the *Reformation* (538 – mid 1600s)
 - **Sardis:** *The Dead, Post Reformation Church* (mid 1600s – mid 1700s)
 - **Philadelphia:** *The Faithful, Judgement Hour Church* (mid 1700s – mid 1800s)
 - **Laodicea:** *The Lukewarm, End-Time Church* (mid 1800s – Jesus' Coming)
- This week spend some time with **Revelation 2 – 3**. Especially focus on the characteristics of each church as they relate to the periods of history noted above.
 - What do you find comforting about this?
 - Is there anything about this that makes you uncomfortable? Why do you think that is?

- Are there things you see in these messages that make them especially fit into the time periods they are said to represent?
- Is there anything in these messages that appear to be building up to the climax of Jesus' coming?
- What is the consistent problem and solution that follows the churches from beginning to end?
- What is the most important message you see for yourself here?
- How will this affect the way you live your life? Why?