

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Letters to the Seven Churches:

Three things worth mentioning:

1. **Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, & 22** “ _____ ”

- a. All seven churches were to read _____ seven letters.
- b. All seven churches were to receive **instruction and warning** as they read them.
- c. _____ also are to receive instruction and warning as we read them.

2. **Revelation 2:6, 15** “ _____ ”

- a. We do _____ know who they were or what they practiced.
- b. We do know for sure that it was a _____ teaching.
- c. The church in Ephesus was _____ for not participating.
- d. The church in Pergamum was _____ against their participation.

POINT: A teaching and/or a practice is neither true or false based on whether or not there is a church/denomination that practices it.

The only true test of a teaching / movement / spiritual practice is _____.

3. **Revelation 2:7, 11, 17 (2:29, 36, 13, 22)**

- a. “Tree of Life” in 2:7 refers to _____ life.
- b. “Not hurt in the second death” refers to _____.
- c. “Hidden manna” refers to spiritual _____.
- d. “White stone with a new name” refers to victory, identity, and _____.
- d. TRUE believers have forgiveness, resulting in eternal life, and are sustained by God to persevere until the final victory is won, and then they will receive their reward.

Ephesus:

1. Did a lot of _____ things that would normally be very pleasing to the Lord.
2. But in the process of getting things done, **stopped** loving God, each other, and the unsaved.

Smyrna Revelation 2:8-11

1. Smyrna:
 - a. _____ with Ephesus to be the “First City of Asia” in the Roman Empire.
 - b. Smyrna, in order to gain allegiance with Rome, _____ the goddess Roma, and the Cult of Rome (197 – 195 BC)
 - c. Polycarp, and many other Christians were **burned at the stake** in the A.D 150s, with the full support of the _____ population.
2. The Christians in Smyrna were:
 - a. Afflicted and poor Persecuted in _____ affairs
 - b. Slandered Intentionally _____ about
 - c. Saw suffering and prison in their future Not a lot of _____ for improvement
3. Yet they were:
 - a. Rich (_____)
 - b. NOT to be _____ of what was coming
 - c. To be _____
 - d. Promised **eternal** life (vs 10) and **freedom** from the second death (vs 11)

Application to HBC:

1. Slander, Prison, Suffering, Affliction, and Poverty may be the price _____ pay for remaining true to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2. Faithfulness will make us spiritually rich, and be _____ of our true salvation.
3. This kind of faithfulness is **far more important** than anything else we might otherwise gain. (**renown/likes**, wealth, **influence/popularity**, safety/comfort, **freedom/self-governance**)
4. Understand that the better we serve God, the more the world will hate us. So, we might as well suffer for something _____ of our suffering, not for something we deserve.