

The Seven Churches

TRUTH

GRACE

Ephesus

Pergamum

The Good Stuff

- Discerning, Appalled at Evil
- Testing Process for Leaders
- Hate idolatry & Sexual Immorality

The Bad Stuff

- They have lost their first love:
- No longer do the works

Solving the Problem

- Reflect, Repent, and do the works

Ignoring the Problem

- Their lamp stand will be removed

The Reward for Change

- They will eat from the Tree of Life

The Good Stuff

- Hold fast to the name of Jesus
- Would not deny the faith despite persecution
- A faithful saint was killed for his faith

The Bad Stuff

- Idolatry, and sexual immorality
- Some hold to teachings of Nicolaitans

Solving the Problem

- Repent immediately

Ignoring the Problem

- Christ will wage war against the Unrepentant

The Reward for Change

- Hidden Manna & White Stone

Church in Sardis

Thyatira

The Good Stuff

- Some have been Faithful
- Have the Knowledge of what is Right

The Bad Stuff

- Reputation is a False Cover
- Works have not been complete
- The church is dead (asleep)

Solving the Problem:

- Remember what you have been taught
- Repent
- Actively do what you know to be true
- A few are involved with good works

The Potential Consequences

- Jesus will come like a Thief against them

The Reward for Change

- Clothed in White Garments
- Will not be blotted out of Book of Life
- Jesus will confess them to the Father

The Good Stuff

- Practice works, love, faith
- Patient endurance
- Latter works exceed their first
- Some don't buy into Jezebel's teaching

The Bad Stuff

- Tolerate false teaching (Jezebel)
- She promotes sexual immorality, idol worship
- She is unrepentant of sexual sin

Solving the Problem:

- Repent of Jezebel's teachings
- Hold Fast and persevere

The Potential Consequences

- Jezebel will become sick
- Her children will die
- Her participants will have a Great Tribulation
- Jesus will search heart and mind in judging

The Reward for Change

- No burden on the faithful
- Authority over all the nations to rule
- Jesus gives them the morning Star

The seven Churches

NO TRUTH AND NO GRACE

Laodicea

The Good Stuff

- Ouch! Nothing except they have money

The Bad Stuff

- Works are Neither hot nor cold
- They wrongly attribute wealth to God's favor
- Unaware of their sinful condition
- They are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, & naked

Solving the Problem

- Refine their hearts towards Jesus in order to be rich
- Accept the discipline forthcoming
- Be zealous and repent
- Responding to the voice of Jesus as he knocks

The Potential Consequence

- Jesus will spit them out of his mouth (i.e. reject them)

Rewards for Change

- The one who conquers will sit with Christ on the throne

The Seven Churches

TRUTH AND GRACE

Smyrna

The Good Stuff

- Poor church, but rich in Christ
- Faithful though experiencing tribulation
- Jesus sides with Smyrna; not the "Jews"
- Encouraged to be faithful in their "short" testing (10 days)

The Bad Stuff

- None, although told they will experience persecution

Solving the Problem

- Encouraged to be faithful unto death

Rewards for Change

- Jesus will give them crown of life
- Will not be hurt by the second death.

Philadelphia

The Good Stuff

- Little power, yet faith to Jesus and his teachings
- Kept the word of Christ, demonstrate patient endurance
- Jesus promises them the Jews will bow down to them
- Jesus will proclaim his love for the church in front of the Jews
- Patient endurance
- Jesus will keep them from the time of trial coming to the whole world

The Bad Stuff

- None, although they will still experience persecution

Solving the Problem

- Continue to be faithful under persecution

Rewards for Change

- They will be kept from the hour of trial coming on the world
- Hold fast, Jesus is coming soon
- They will receive the crown
- Conquerors will be pillars in God's temple
- Jesus will write on them the name of God
- The name of God's city, New Jerusalem, coming from the sky
- Jesus will write on them his new name