

Chapters 2 & 3 – Letters to the Seven Churches
Module 2

Foundation Scripture:

Rev 21:7 He that overcomes shall inherit all things; I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

A. Overcoming

1. Jesus is Our Example.

Rev 3:14 **Laodicea** v21 To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also **overcame**, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

2. Overcome by Partnering with God.

Rev 12:11 And they **overcame** him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (*i.e., they chose to die to self, to pride and to sin*).

3. Overcome by Faith.

1Jn 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.

1Jn 5:5 Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

4. Faith Works by Obedience.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Rev 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

B. Summary to the Seven Churches

1. Order of the letters.

It is very important to note that the letters were addressed to the churches in geographical order.

The order of the letters does not reflect the importance, the success nor spirituality of the churches.

The order of the letters does not reflect the importance of the chastening nor of the rewards.

All corrections and all rewards are available to all churches and to all believers for God does not play favorites i.e. He is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).

2. General guidelines, each spoken 7 times, once to each church.

I know thy works.

He who has an ear, let him hear.

He that overcometh.

3. General characteristics of the seven churches.

One materially rich; one materially poor.

One with heresy inside; one with heresy outside.

One spiritually dead; one lost first love.

One spiritually alive, succeeding by keeping His Word and not denying His name.

Additionally, four churches are told to repent: Ephesus, Pergamos, Sardis and Laodicea.

In (*the community of*) Thyatira, the false prophet and her followers are told to repent.

Book of Revelation Made Plain

4. Specific directions for overcoming, one direction to each church.
 Rev 3:16 Do not be lukewarm to Laodicea.
 Rev 2:4 Do not forsake your first love to Ephesus.
 Rev 3:1 Do not be spiritually dead to Sardis.
 Rev 2:14 Do not have heresy in you or your church to Pergamos.
 Rev 2:18 Do not tolerate heresy around you or your church to Thyatira.
 Rev 3:16 3:7 Do keep the Word of God and do not deny His Name to Philadelphia.
 Rev 2:10 Do be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life to Smyrna.

C. The Seven Churches e.g., Ephesus Rev 2:1-7

1. Jesus presents His credentials or qualifications.
 These qualifications are used in delivering the correction or specifying the reward.
 Rev 2:1 He that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand (*i.e., the angels of the church*), who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks (*i.e., the seven churches*).
 Refer Rev 1:20.
2. The church is evaluated.
 Rev 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:
 Rev 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.
 Rev 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
3. Correction or encouragement is given.
 Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
 Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, **and will remove thy candlestick out of his place**, except thou repent.
4. The rewards are described.
 Rev 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.