

REVELATION

breaking the code

Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Part 4

This week we continued with part 4 of the series Revelation – Breaking the Code and Pastor Curt shared an overview of lessons from the last four churches mentioned in Revelation chapters 2 and 3.

THYATIRA is the church of compromise with the world's culture and reminds us to remove impurity in our lives. Compromise will dilute our love for Jesus. The lesson is: **Small compromises lead to big regrets.**

SARDIS is the church in a well-guarded city and reminds us to renew our zeal. The lesson is: **Guard your heart**; close secret doors that allow the enemy to affect our lives. Be on fire for Jesus!

PHILADELPHIA is the church that is holding onto God and reminds us to respect God's Word. The lesson is: **Make a fresh commitment to hold onto God's Word.** Trust God's Word.

LAODECIA is the church that is neither hot for God nor cold towards God and reminds us to repent of lukewarmness. This church is most likely a description of the church in America today. It's a materially rich, self-sufficient church, that is distasteful to God. The lesson is: **Repent of my lukewarmness and trust in Jesus alone.**

Now we that have heard an overview of the seven churches in the book Revelation (of Jesus) we would do well to learn from and apply 1 Chronicles 12:32 - "(The men of Issachar) ... understood the times and knew what Israel should do." Let's live these truths out this week!

Discussion Questions

- In looking over the seven churches how is our situation in America similar to each one? What are the differences? What about you personally...which of these things do you think Jesus would commend you for? What would be His criticisms?
- One of the realities living out our faith is we have seasons of life when we are prone to wander away from the Lord. Discuss the reasons you believe people are prone to wander.
- Do you struggle embracing the authoritative voice of God in your life? Why or why not? Why is today's culture calling Christians intolerant? How can Christians hold biblical convictions and still love their neighbors as commanded by Christ?
- If Sardis is a spiritually dead church then what does a spiritually alive church look like?
- Where do you see intolerance practiced by those in the church and those who are not Christians?
- PC said the church of Laodicea describes the American church today. What similarities are there?

Prayer Focus

Jesus, thank You for the Good News You brought to the world. I am so grateful for the cross and the hope that You have given all of us through Your sacrifice and for making me a part of your church. Help me be Your messenger by connecting with others and boldly inviting them into a relationship with You. I am available. Help me to be faithful, committed to you and your word and let the Gospel be shared through me!

Next Steps

This week, think about your personal salvation story and how you can begin to communicate it with others. Look for moments to share the Good News of Jesus with others. When the opportunity comes, be bold!

Leader Tip

Encourage your group members to get comfortable sharing their testimony. If you haven't done so already, share your testimony so they can experience the affect it can have on others.