

## Rebellion and Redemption – Part 12

### The messages of Jesus to the seven churches

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on Rebellion and Redemption, studying the theme of the Great Controversy between good and evil. Our topic today: the messages of Jesus to the seven churches.

Scripture Theme Song: I will praise You, O LORD (Ps. 9:1-2)

- 1) The church at Ephesus - Revelation 2:1-7
  - a) What evidences do you see of the great controversy in the description of the church at Ephesus?
  - b) Apparently, the believers in Ephesus had lost their first love without even realizing it. How can we avoid making the same mistake?
- 2) The church at Smyrna – Revelation 2:8-11
  - a) What is the significance of the name given to Jesus in v.8?
  - b) Read v.10a again. That is easier said than done. How can we find freedom from fear even when facing life-threatening situations?
- 3) The church at Pergamum – Revelation 2:12-17
  - a) What is the greatest challenge for the church at Pergamum?
  - b) A faithful martyr, Antipas, laid down his life in Pergamum. What encouragement do you gain from the words of Jesus in v.13?
- c) Life is often a mixture of victories and failures. How can we survive and learn from our failures rather than be overcome by them?
- 4) The church at Thyatira – Revelation 2:18-21
  - a) What major problems do you see with the church at Thyatira?
  - b) How is it possible to hold fast (v.25) when you are surrounded by apostasy?
- 5) The church at Sardis – Revelation 3:1-6
  - a) Read v.1 again. How is it possible to think you're alive spiritually when in reality you're dead?
  - b) What encouragement do you find from v.2-3?
  - c) Why doesn't Jesus mention the names of those in Sardis who "have not defiled their garments"? He mentioned Antipas in Thyatira?
- 6) The church at Philadelphia – Revelation 3:7-13
  - a) How do you respond to the message of Jesus to the church in Philadelphia?
  - b) What specific encouragement do you find in this message for your life today?
- 7) The church at Laodicea – Revelation 3:14-22
  - a) What difference do you notice with the message to this seventh church?
  - b) What encouragement do you find in spite of the failures mentioned here?
- 8) Discussion questions
  - a) What do all of these messages have in common?
  - b) What special relevance do we find in these messages for our lives today?