

★ Message to the Seven Churches

The Seven Candlesticks

Lesson 12

The Teacher's Preparation

Scripture Passages to Study: Revelation 2 & 3

Study Guide: Read "Message to the Seven Churches: *The Seven Candlesticks*" from *New Testament Highlights - Part 2*.

Lesson Objective: Even though God's message was given to seven churches, each member was responsible for his own response. When we stand before Christ, He will not ask, "What did your church do?" His question will be, "What did you do?"

Lesson Application: Am I saved? Am I Scripturally baptized? Am I living the kind of life that will not make me ashamed when I stand before Christ?

Memory Verse: Revelation 2:2



"THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART..."

*I know thy works, and thy labour,
and thy patience, and how thou canst
not bear them which are evil.*

—Revelation 2:2

The Teacher's Checklist

- Activity Worksheets and Pencils
- Attendance and Record Notebook
- Lesson Plan
- Cue Card
- Memory Verse Card
- Music Player
- Visual Illustrations for the Lesson
- Attention Getter: Kaleidoscope

Teacher Tips

We must remember the impact that we can have on our students if we take the time to care.

The Teacher's Lesson Plan

Materials: Kaleidoscope

What You Could Say:

Today, I brought with me a kaleidoscope. This is a neat toy to have! I look through the eyepiece and point the end of the kaleidoscope toward light. What you see inside is pretty amazing—different colors and beautiful designs. If you turn the end of the kaleidoscope—even just a little—you will find that the colors and the designs change into other beautiful images.

Everything around us is always changing. Newborn babies become toddlers that learn how to walk and talk like you and me. The leaves on the trees are green for a couple of months, turn orange and red during the autumn season, and then fall off altogether! Your hair grows longer, and you grow taller. Everything in this world changes, just like the kaleidoscope.

Our Lord never changes. He is the same as He was when the world began and will be the same when we are no longer here. In today's lesson, we will learn how the teachings of Jesus Christ from thousands of years ago must still be followed by Christians today.

Teacher's Notes

What nobler
employment, or
more valuable to
the state, than that
of the man who
instructs the rising
generation.

—Marcus Tullius
Cicero

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4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 12

★ The Seven Candlesticks

A man named John wrote the book of Revelation. This John is not the same man as John the Baptist. Jesus allowed an angel to let John see many things, and then John wrote down in a book what he saw.

Jesus gave messages to John about seven churches that existed during that time. Since the messages given to these churches also apply to us, we are going to learn what God said to these churches.

God Knows

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil.

—Revelation 2:2

Most of the seven messages follow a similar format. Over and over again, in each of the verses preceding the discussion about the churches, God says, “I know thy works.” That’s a pretty scary thought. God knows everything that we do and say. He knows what we think. He sees when we do something we’re not supposed to do, and He sees when we do right. We may sometimes think that we can do wrong if no one knows about it. But God sees. The fact that God, who loves us more than we can understand, sees everything that we do should motivate us to do right all the time—even when we think no one is looking.

On the other hand, when we do right all the time, we sometimes feel like no one notices or cares. But God sees! God knows all the little things we do that are right and good! Our actions matter to Him!

God's Messages

God had John write a message to each church. God listed each church’s good qualities and bad qualities, then He told them how to correct their problems. Let’s examine what God told these seven churches to find out what we might need to fix in our own lives.

1. Ephesus

The church at Ephesus was doing great things for God, but they were not doing it with the right heart. God said that if the church of Ephesus didn’t change their ways, they would no longer be a church.

2. Smyrna

The church at Smyrna was going to go through some difficult trials. God knew that some of

the people might even be cast into prison! God didn't promise them that they would have no trials, but He encouraged them to stay faithful.

3. Pergamos

The church at Pergamos had trouble with false doctrine. Wrong teachings had invaded the church, and the people believed things that weren't right. Do you remember our last lesson about contending for the faith? The people at Pergamos were not contending for the faith.

4. Thyatira

The church at Thyatira had allowed an evil woman by the name of Jezebel to teach their members that some sins were okay. It is never right for us to sin. Some people think that because we are saved by grace, we can do whatever we want. This is not right thinking! We are saved by grace, but the Bible teaches that we should live pure and holy lives.

5. Sardis

The church at Sardis looked like it was a great church; in fact, it had a reputation for being a great church. But God knew that the people were dead on the inside. A church that does not have real enthusiasm for God and God's truth will soon believe false doctrine.

6. Philadelphia

The church at Philadelphia was a good church! They heard the Word of God and put it into practice. They told others about Jesus!

7. Laodicea

The people of the Laodicean church thought that they didn't need anything from God. They thought that they were doing just fine. They had plenty of money and material possessions, but God said they were neither hot nor cold. God called them a "lukewarm" church.

Conclusion

Although God wrote to these churches almost 2,000 years ago, we can still learn from them today. We can learn from God's messages to these churches about the importance of obeying the Bible and serving God with a right heart. We can learn to have confidence that God will be faithful in the midst of our trials. We can learn the importance of knowing the Bible so that we are not tricked by those who would teach us false doctrine. We should never believe the lie that some sins are "okay" with God. We can learn the importance of being as spiritual on the inside as we appear to be on the outside. We should not have a self-satisfied attitude, thinking that there is nothing we need from God. We should strive to be like the Christians at Philadelphia who heard the Word of God and put it into practice in their lives.