

Theory of the Seven Churches in Revelation Parelleling to Seven Periods in Church History

Church	Meaning of Name	Column1	Period in Church History	Time in History	History Overview
Ephesus: The Careless Church	desirable	They had lost their first love; replaced it with legalism	Early Church	33-100 AD	Church of the 1st century; what Jesus desired but the church would soon lose their first love of Him
Smyrna: The Crowned Church	bitter	They had been persecuted but purified; thought they were poor but they were rich	First Apostasy & Persecution	54-312 AD	Nero, Roman Emperor reigns; Christians were persecuted
Pergamos: The Compromising Church	married	They had compromised their doctrine; Jesus said they lived in Satan's throne; false teachers & paganism were rampant	Imperial Church	312-607 AD	Rome began to accept Christianity; in 380 AD Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire
Thyatira; The Corrupted Church	sacrifice	They had permitted "Jezebel" to mislead them into false doctrine.	Middle Ages	607-1520 AD	Catholicism's doctrine of continual sacrifice of Jesus (Jesus remains on their cross); ideology of indulging (sinning) because sacrifice of Jesus had covered our sins
Sardis: The Feeble Church	escaping	They think they are alive but they're really dead. Jesus tells them to wake up & repent before it's too late.	Reformation	1520-1750 AD	The Protestant Reformation where Protestants separated from the Roman Catholic church (Martin Luther/ John Calvin period)
Philadelphia: The Faithful Church	brotherly love	Created to be a missionary church; they were small but had the power of Jesus' name	Revivalists & Great Awakening	1750-1900 AD	Emphasis on foreign missions and local camp meetings; risks taken to reach unreachable areas to spread the Gospel (John & Charles Wesley, Charles Spurgeon)

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Laodicea: The Foolish Church	people ruling	Lukewarm - neither hot nor cold; think they are rich but are really poor; Jesus is at the door waiting for them to return to Him	Modern Day	1900 AD - present day	God is not a priority; prosperity and comfort are desired; more concerned with political correctness than obeying God's Word