

# **FIVE MISTAKES CHRISTIANS MUST AVOID**

Part 4 of ENCOUNTERING JESUS. Revelation 2-3.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. January 29, 2023.

## **SEVEN LETTERS - SEVEN CHURCHES**

### **The Book of Revelation was written to:**

- Encourage seven churches in the ancient Roman province of Asia Minor.

### **Each letter follows the same general format:**

- Description of Christ.
- Commendation, or concern, or both.
- Exhortation to change and conquer.
- Promise related to eternal life.

## **HOW WILL WE STUDY THE LETTERS?**

**Week one: Five mistakes Christians must avoid.**

**Week two: Seven promises to every believer.**

## **FIVE MISTAKES EVERY CHRISTIAN MUST AVOID**

### **Mistake one: Not sharing the gospel - Revelation 2:4.**

- The Christians in Ephesus had “abandoned the love you had at first.”
- Most commentators: They lost zealous love for Jesus and each other. Prof. G.K. Beale: They lost zeal to be the light of the world - to share faith.
- The church is a lampstand - 2:1; 1:20. Our lamp is Christ and gospel:

Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV) “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

- Question: What is the first step I need to take to make my witness to Christ and the Gospel more effective?

### **Mistake two: Living by fear, not faith - Revelation 2:10.**

- The Christians in Smyrna were under pressure from the synagogue.
- They were tempted to let fear kill their faith.

Revelation 2:10 (ESV) Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death ...

- Jesus taught us to be bold:

Luke 9:26 (ESV) Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

- Question: What is one area of my life where I need to be bold for Jesus?

### **Mistake three: Tolerating False Teachers - Revelation 2:14-15, 20.**

- The Christians in Pergamum and Thyatira gave a platform to teachers who encouraged them to mix their Christian faith with pagan rituals.

Revelation 2:14 (ESV) But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality (Numbers 22-25; 31:16; Jude 11).

- The false teachers said: *“Since participating in temple rituals is part of life and business in our city, we should join in and hope for opportunities to share the gospel.”*
- No one stood up and said, “Enough!”

- Question: What is one action I can take to counteract the influence of false teaching in my life?

#### **Mistake four: Spiritual apathy - Revelation 3:1-2.**

- The Christians in Sardis were Christian in name only.

Revelation 3:1-2 (ESV) ‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

- Their works were incomplete because they had given up. Big mistake:

Revelation 3:3 (ESV) If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

- Question: What is one habit I can start today to bring spiritual revival to my life (for example, Psalm 85:6)?

#### **Mistake five: Spiritual arrogance - Revelation 3:16-17.**

- The Christians in Laodicea were like lukewarm water = unhealthy. They felt they didn’t need Jesus in their day-day life and ministry.

Revelation 3:16-17 (ESV) So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. 17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

- They didn’t feel their need for Christ and his supernatural spiritual power. How to tell if I’m spiritually arrogant:

- Question: Am I satisfied with my spiritual condition?

- David Jeremiah - “Are you propelling your church toward Christ or compromise?”

# CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

## **Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 2-3.**

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Which of the five mistakes are you most susceptible to? Why do you think this is? What are you doing/have you done to get back on track?

## **Watch and discuss a video about the Church in Thyatira - Revelation 2:18-28.**

- Watch at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUsm9dZPrcY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUsm9dZPrcY)
- What did they hope to gain by tolerating the teaching of “Jezebel?”
- What was the main content of the false teaching?
- Is there anything similar happening in today’s churches? Explain?
- What are the solutions?
- How do the promises in Revelation 2:26-28 help us stay on track?

## **Pray together. Be bold.**

*Lord Jesus, all praise to you, the One who walks among your churches. You know everything about us. Please tell us what you like about our congregation. Tell us what you hate. Give us more grace to bring everything into line with your will and pleasure. Thank you. Amen!*

## **Preparation for Next Sunday.**

- Blessed: Chapter 3.
- David Jeremiah: [davidjeremiah.blog/christs-message-for-the-seven-churches-of-revelation-and-today/](http://davidjeremiah.blog/christs-message-for-the-seven-churches-of-revelation-and-today/)