

SESSION 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE

LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Summary - Revelation 2-3 (22 minutes)

In Revelation 2-3, we find the seven letters to the seven churches of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey).

The 7 Churches were the churches of:

- Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)
- ° Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11)
- Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17)
- ° Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)
- ° Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6)
- ° Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13)
- ° Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)

Discussion Questions - After discussing what you learned from the teaching, use the following questions to have further conversation.

- 1. Which of the seven letters speaks to you the most? Why?
- 2. To the church of Laodicea, Jesus says "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other!" (Revelation

3:15 NLT). That is a surprising statement! What spiritual truth does Jesus want us to understand with such a bold statement? Have you ever experienced being "neither hot nor cold?" If so, how did that happen?

- 3. Most of the letters end with a similar formula: "To the one who is victorious..." Is there anything that Jesus is telling you that you need to overcome or gain victory over?
- 4. What truth or encouragement from these seven letters to the seven churches will you start applying to your life?

THE TRIBULATION AND THE RAPTURE

Summary - Revelation 4-18 (14 minutes)

While we all will go through tribulations, the Bible talks about things getting worse, leading up to "the" Tribulation, or what has been called the "great tribulation" (Revelation 4-18).

Matthew 24:3-14 also describes the Tribulation time, and Jesus shares signs to be aware of.

The Rapture is when Christians will be "caught up" and removed just before the Tribulation time begins (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

The book of Revelation is often misunderstood, but once you study it, you'll discover it truly is a book about evangelism!

Discussion Questions

- 1. Based on Pastor Drew's teaching, read Matthew 24:3-14 and share what Jesus said are some of the signs of the coming Tribulation and of his Second Coming. Which signs do you believe you already see now?
- 2. Pastor Drew said it again this week: the big idea of the book of Revelation is evangelism. Why should the idea of the Rapture inspire us to share our faith more? What keeps us from sharing our faith?
- 3. What truth did you discover today that encouraged your faith?

Homework: Before the next class, be sure to prepare by reading chapters 4-6.