



This Sunday we begin a brand new expository series on the *7 Churches of Asia* based on Revelation chapters 2 and 3. Although the book of Revelation is steeped with symbolism, these two chapters are not, and easy to understand. In times such as the pandemic, it offers invaluable lessons for all churches.

These 7 churches are located in modern-day Turkey, which Nat and I visited some years ago. Some of these places, like Ephesus, are very well preserved, but the churches are no longer there.

Each church received a letter from Jesus who pointed out their shortcomings and also commended them for their faith and service. Here is a brief summary of these 7 churches.

1. The church at Ephesus was commended for her hard work and doctrinal integrity, but had become less devoted to Christ. Here, we learn that we must teach God's Truth in love. You cannot have one without the other.

2. The church in Smyrna had remained faithful amidst harsh persecution. Although it was poor, it was rich spiritually. Today, Christians are persecuted worldwide but we find courage that these trials are limited to a short time, compared to life eternal.

3. The church in Pergamum was in a pagan

city but it held to its faith. Jesus targeted members who was following false teachings that brought about religious and moral compromise.

4. The church in Thyatira had grown in faith and service but was also devoted to a false prophet that led some members to commit idolatry and immorality.

5. The church in Sardis was spiritually dead while maintaining a reputation to be an active vibrant congregation. Jesus warned the congregation to wake up and repent, lest He return like a thief and catch them off-guard.

6. In Philadelphia, the church was not rebuked but has endured patiently despite its struggles. We learn here that blessings will come when keep on keeping on, and do not give up.

7. The church Laodicea was a wealthy but lukewarm congregation. Here we learn that Jesus wants us to be hot - not in the middle which is distasteful to Him.

Notice: The Household of Faith will continue to live stream from brother Henry's office as usual until further notice. The intended change of location and **the Roster for March has been postponed** until further notice.



March Birthdays

6th: S. Selvarajah
2nd: Yeo Kang Hwei
18th: Lilian Yeo



Introduction


7-Lesson Expository Series – Revelations 2-4
Expository is something intended to explain or describe.

All located in modern day Turkey along the trade route at that time

- Specific location
- Clear summary of the church's condition
- Encouragement to do better
- *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.*

Church in Ephesus

Key city of Asia, population of 300,000
 Well known for ancient temple of Artemis (Diana KJV)
 Demetrius incited a riot (Acts 19)
 Great Christian influence
 Very well preserved



Revelation 2:1-7


To the angel of the assembly in Ephesus write:

"He who holds the seven stars in his right hand, he who walks among the seven golden lampstands says these things:

"I know your works, and your toil and perseverance, and that you can't tolerate evil men, and have tested those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and found them false.

You have perseverance and have endured for my name's sake, and have not grown weary.

Introduction
Church in Ephesus



Revelation 2:1-7

But I have this against you, that you left your first love.


Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I am coming to you swiftly, and will move your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.

To him who overcomes I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of my God.

Introduction
Church in Ephesus



Positive Qualities

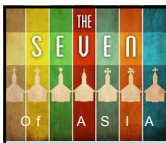
I know your works, and your toil and perseverance, and that you can't tolerate evil men, and have tested those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and found them false.

You have perseverance and have endured for my name's sake, and have not grown weary.

But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Nicolaitans were heretics who followed the doctrine of Balaam to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.

Introduction
Church in Ephesus
Revelation 2:1-7



Introduction
Church in Ephesus
Revelation 2:1-7
Positive Qualities

Negative Qualities

But I have this against you, that you left your first love.

Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I am coming to you swiftly, and will move your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

Very important omission – common in today's churches.

They had forsaken their first love, becoming less devoted to Christ or were no longer motivated by love for one another.



Introduction
Church in Ephesus
Revelation 2:1-7
Positive Qualities
Negative Qualities

Remedy

1. Remember
2. Repent
3. Redo the first works

Revelation 2:7

To him who overcomes I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of my God.

Revelation 22:19

If anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, may God take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book.



Introduction
Church in Ephesus
Revelation 2:1-7
Positive Qualities
Negative Qualities
Remedy

Conclusion

Important lesson that truth and love must go hand-in-hand. You cannot have one without the other.

Ephesians 4:15 *but speaking truth in love, we may grow up in all things into him, who is the head, Christ*

A church may have many strong points of doctrine, but without love, it is just an empty shell.

Revelation 2:5 *Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I am coming to you swiftly, and will move your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.*



14th March 2021

Move of Location Update

By the second half of this year, the Pasir Panjang congregation will tear down the present building to construct a new building. My office from where we have been live streaming for over a year will no longer be available.

My initial thought was to move to the home of the Alfred Poons in March, since we began our live streaming at their home last year.

While we were preparing to make the transition, brother Barnabas Thng offered the Household of Faith his office at Ayer Rajah Crescent, just opposite the one-north MRT.

He has secured permission from the landlord to use it as a meeting place, provided we scan for safe entry, safe distancing and do not fellowship after the meeting.

I have checked out the premises and discussed it with brother Alfred and decided to make the move in April, based on these considerations:

1. The clock is ticking and we have to move out of Pasir Panjang in a few months.
2. Although the home of brother Alfred is an option, it can be used only for live streaming, which is limited to 10 persons.
3. The Household of Faith needs to return to worship, like most churches, now that up to 150 persons are allowed (in batches of 50). We are unable to return to the Metropolitan YMCA because they now permit only registered churches, and we do not have enough members or leaders to register with the ROS.

4. The Lord has provided us a ground floor premises in a quiet location opposite the one-north MRT, with ample of parking.

5. The room can accommodate up to 18 persons based on the safe distancing restrictions, allowing almost twice as many to participate, compared to using the home of the Poons.

6. Brother Barnabas has applied for larger premises. When it becomes available, there will be room for every member, and we do not need to restrict attendance to a rotation roster.

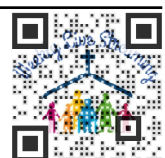
7. Although we cannot have potluck after the worship, the location is next to Timbre+, a new funky food court with a wide variety of food. Members and visitors can enjoy fellowship in groups of 8 persons, if they choose to.

I believe that in our time of need, the Lord has provided us an excellent alternative to the Metropolitan YMCA. The walking distance from the MRT is just across the road. Also, it is not sustainable paying \$750 for 4 hours rental when we can use the Ayer Rajah premises any time we want, without fees.

Please pray for this move which we have scheduled for the first week of April. If everything works well, this could be our future home.



Fidelity is published weekly by the Household of Faith, Singapore, currently live streaming every Sunday at 6pm at <https://tinyurl.com/HOFstream>. Check our website - www.hofsg.com for the latest updates. Address: 73 Ayer Rajah Crescent, #01-17, The Launchpad, Singapore 139952. Postal address: Pasir Panjang P.O. Box 27, Singapore 911121. Website: hofsg.com. For more details, contact the minister. Henry Kong at henry.kong@yahoo.com. Mobile: +65 9326 0669. Scan QR Code to go to our website (left) or our FB Live Stream (right).





Weekly Live Streaming

<https://tinyurl.com/H0fstream>

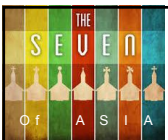
Every Sunday @6pm

Welcome to the Household of Faith!
14 March 2021



Message
to the
Seven
Churches

7-lesson Expository Series (Pt II)



Introduction

7-Lesson Expository Series – Revelations 2-4

All located in modern day Turkey along the trade route at that time

- Specific location
- Clear summary of the church's condition
- Encouragement to do better
- *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.*

THE

SEVEN

OF ASIA

Introduction

Church in Smyrna

A very well developed Greek city with paved roads and beautiful buildings, a theatre seating 20,000

A seaport, 35 miles north from Ephesus with a population of 100,000

Significant Jewish population with a synagogue

THE

SEVEN

OF ASIA

Introduction

Church in Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11

To the angel of the assembly in Smyrna write:

The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life says these things: I know your works, oppression, and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews, and they are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Don't be afraid of the things which you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested; and you will have oppression for ten days.

Be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. He who overcomes won't be harmed by the second death.

THE

SEVEN

OF ASIA

Introduction

Church in Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11

Positive Qualities

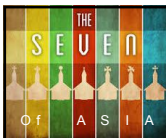
"I know your works, oppression, and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews, and they are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Works

Oppression – emperor worship, Jews

Though materially poor, rich in faith and works

Blasphemy from fellow Jews



Introduction
Church in Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11
Positive Qualities

Negative Qualities

- None mentioned
- Need courage – do not be afraid
- Will be persecuted – thrown in prison and tested
- Have to endure – oppression for 10 days



Introduction
Church in Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11
Positive Qualities
Negative Qualities

Remedy

- 1 Don't be afraid of the things which you are about to suffer.
- 2 Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested; and you will have oppression for ten days.
- 3 Be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- 4 He who overcomes won't be harmed by the second death.



Introduction
Church in Smyrna
Revelation 2:8-11
Positive Qualities
Negative Qualities
Remedy

Conclusion

- Smyrna is a church that remained faithful amidst persecution
- There are no rebukes for this church but warnings of persecutions and impending imprisonment, even to the point of death
- Like the church in Smyrna, Christians have been persecuted all over the world since the early church.
- We take comfort that even when we may suffer greatly, it is limited and short compared to the joy we will experience in heaven

Our New Meeting Place: 73 #01-17, Ayer Rajah Crescent the Launchpad, Singapore 139952



Exit from the one-north MRT (Circle Line) and take the Ayer Rajah Ave/INSEAD exit. Once you are on ground level, cross the road to the red and white building (block 77 in the photo) called the Launchpad. The new meeting place is at block 73, behind this building.



The corner meeting place is quiet, with ample parking lots next to it, and sheltered all the way.



There is room for 18 persons with one-metre distancing. When restrictions are eased, we can use the fellowship area just outside the door (with hot and cold water).



It is situated in a quiet area, all by itself that is so ideal for church meetings.

We will start with members on rotation but will eventually open to all when a larger room is available or when restrictions are relaxed.

All have to scan the safe entry, scan QR code, take temperature and keep their masks on.

Currently, we cannot have potluck after worship but up to 8 persons can enjoy fellowship at the Timbre+ food court after the live streaming worship.

Pray for our move in April to this location. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let our minister know.





HoF Resumes In-person Worship

Since the beginning of the Household of Faith, we have been renting premises for worship on an hourly basis. Starting April 2021, we will be having our own place for worship on Sundays and use it any time we want. It is also next to an MRT, food court with ample parking. When fellowship is permitted, there is a fellowship area right in front of the premises where we can bring or cater food without restrictions.

Right now, there is room for about 18 persons (complying to safe distancing). Since we have been averaging 20-30 before the pandemic, we are opening the worship to members, supporters and their family on a rotation roster. There is room for everyone who wants to join us for in-person worship.

We will test run for 2 weeks on the 21st and 28th of March, then start in-person worship on rotation from the 4th April.

Members and supporters who want to join whenever there are empty slots are asked to text me. You will receive an immediate confirmation. Do not show up if you do not receive a confirmation.

If you have not responded to my announcement text, please let me know if you wish to join the worship either:

- A. Once a month
- B. Every other week or
- C. Every week.

We need to get every member at the Household of Faith to return to in-person worship, starting with once a month rotation roster.

Members Scheduled for 4th April 2021

Lilian, Selvarajah, Paul, June, Ramesh,
Elaine, Peter Poon (4 slots available)

Worship team: Barnabas, Annie, Henry,
Paul Quek, Alfred, Philemon & Paul Poon

On the Roster for April

11th: Lilian, Richard, Peter and
Steven Tan (7 slots available)

18th: Lilian, Selvarajah, Peter and
Doreen (7 slots available)

25th: Lilian and Peter
(9 slots available)

Those who have indicated that they wish
to be present on a rotation basis so far:

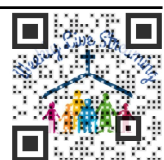
Monthly: June Dhanabalan, Richard Chia,
Steven Tan, Elaine Poon and
Doreen Cheang.

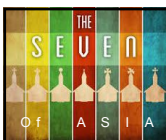
Bi-monthly: S. Selvarajah

Weekly: Lilian Yeo and Peter Poon



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Church in Pergamum

An important political centre

The people of Pergamum were known as the "Temple-keepers of Asia."

The city had three temples dedicated to the worship of the Roman emperor, another for the goddess Athena, and the Great Altar of Zeus, the king of the Greek gods.





Revelation 2:12-17

To the angel of the assembly in Pergamum write:

He who has the sharp two-edged sword says these things:

I know your works and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. You hold firmly to my name, and didn't deny my faith in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to throw a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

So you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans likewise

Church in Pergamum



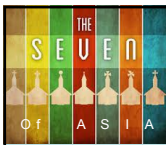
Revelation 2:12-17

Repent therefore, or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of my mouth.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.

To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written, which no one knows but he who receives it.

Church in Pergamum



Church in Pergamum
Revelation 2:12-17

Positive Qualities

I know your works and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is.

You hold firmly to my name, and didn't deny my faith

Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.



Church in Pergamum
Revelation 2:12-17
Positive Qualities

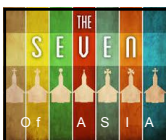
Negative Qualities

But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam,

-to eat things sacrificed to idols

- and to commit sexual immorality.

- some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans



Church in Pergamum
Revelation 2:12-17
Positive Qualities
Negative Qualities

Remedy

Repent therefore, or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of my mouth

Living in a very anti-Christian religious world and being in the minority

Did well, but some in the church were already infected like Lot in Sodom



How to get to our New Worship Premises



Directions By MRT:

Drop off at one-north MRT Station. Go to level one of Fusionopolis via exit C (Ayer Rajah Ave/ INSEAD exit). Exit the main building, cross the street (Ayer Rajah Avenue) and locate LaunchPad Block 73 (red and white building) next to Timbre+.



Last Sunday, the live stream team of the Household of Faith met at the new meeting place: Launchpad, Ayer Rajah Crescent for the first time to live stream our worship. This week we will again live stream at the new location.

Starting in April, we will begin in-person worship, allowing members to choose to come once, twice or every Sunday each month. We will start with a roster system but judging from the response so far, we may not need to do so in May.

We are thankful for the location provided by brother Barnabas and are excited that we can at last return to in-person worship. With the vaccination programme moving speedily, we look forward to further relaxing of restrictions and to be able to enjoy potluck again.

The reason for this is that there are many empty slots every week, so any member who wants to attend once, twice or every Sunday each month is able to do so.

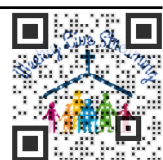
In the unlikely event that there are more than 18 members in attendance on any Sunday, the overflow can up the communion kits and proceed to the adjoining food court, Timbre+, to live stream from their phones or tablets.

Our main concern is no longer a place to meet, or the size of the place. It is if members will return to in-person worship. Already we have observed that churches which have resumed in-person worship are only seeing a small number of members who actually showed up.

The goal of the Household of Faith is to encourage every member to return to worship in-person by July, whether it is once, twice or every Sunday. We hope that when we celebrate our fourth anniversary, the congregation will be intact and ready to begin Care Teams and children's Bible class again.



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Weekly Live Streaming

<https://tinyurl.com/WOFstream>

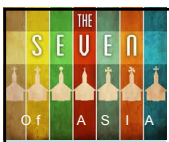
Every Sunday @6pm

Welcome to the Household of Faith!
28 March 2021



Message to the Seven Churches

7-lesson Expository Series (Pt IV)




Church in Thyatira


Unlike Ephesus and Smyrna, an insignificant city

Had a dye industry – Lydia Acts 16:14

Home to the temple of Apollo, the sun god

Of the first 3 epistles, Jesus has so much to say to this church





Church in Thyatira


Revelation 2:18-29

To the angel of the assembly in Thyatira write:

The Son of God, who has his eyes like a flame of fire, and his feet are like burnished brass, says these things:

I know your works, your love, faith, service, patient endurance, and that your last works are more than the first.

But I have this against you, that you tolerate your woman, Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. She teaches and seduces my servants to commit sexual immorality, and to eat things sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. Behold, I will throw her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great oppression, unless they repent of her works.



Church in Thyatira


Revelation 2:18-29

I will kill her children with Death, and all the assemblies will know that I am he who searches the minds and hearts. I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

But to you I say, to the rest who are in Thyatira, as many as don't have this teaching, who don't know what some call 'the deep things of Satan,' to you I say, I am not putting any other burden on you.

Nevertheless, hold firmly that which you have, until I come.

He who overcomes, and he who keeps my works to the end, to him I will give authority over the nations. He will rule them with a rod of iron, shattering them like clay pots; as I also have received of my Father; and I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.




Church in Thyatira
Revelation 2:18-29

Positive Qualities

I know your works, your love, faith, service, patient endurance, and that your last works are more than the first.

- 1) Works:** known for their actions, not just their beliefs.
- 2) Love:** the only church Jesus commended for having love.
- 3) Faith:** their deeds and love were motivated by their faith.
- 4) Service:** involved in the ministry of serving others.
- 5) Patience:** They had endurance.
- 6) Doing More:** Their latter works exceeded the first, growing in their faith and service

So many good things negated by just one thing...



Church in Thyatira
Revelation 2:18-29
Positive Qualities

Negative Qualities

But I have this against you, that you tolerate your woman, Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess.


She teaches and seduces my servants to commit sexual immorality, and to eat things sacrificed to idols.

Behold, I will throw her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great oppression

I will kill her children with Death

I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

Ephesus: Doctrine but no love
Thyatira: Love but no doctrine.



Church in Thyatira
Revelation 2:18-29
Positive Qualities
Negative Qualities

Remedy

1 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses... unless they repent of her works.


2 I will give to each one of you according to your deeds

2 Nevertheless, hold firmly that which you have, until I come.

2 He who overcomes, and he who keeps my works to the end, to him I will give authority over the nations.

2 He will rule them with a rod of iron, shattering them like clay pots

2 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.



Church in Thyatira
Revelation 2:18-29
Positive Qualities
Negative Qualities
Remedy

Conclusion

Proverbs 23:23 *Buy the truth, and don't sell it*

2 Timothy 4:1-2 *I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*

1 Corinthians 5:11 *But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reveller, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.*

2 John 1:10-11 *If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.*
