

What Jesus wants for his church - truth

Revelation 2:12-17

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the
morning service, Sunday 3rd March 2024



1 Timothy 3v15

if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- ① Ephesus
- ② Smyrna
- ③ Pergamos
- ④ Thyatira
- ⑤ Sardis
- ⑥ Philadelphia
- ⑦ Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision





1. Past faithfulness (v13)

Revelation 2v13

I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.



2. Present challenges (v14-15)

Revelation 2v14

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.

“The point is that every day we are tempted in a thousand little ways to just cave in and go along with it. Whether you’re a pastor or a professor, a school teacher or a politician, a supervisor or an employee, a public figure or a private person, the pressure is increasing, both from our culture and the government to compromise. Pause long enough to reflect and you will soon know what the issues are for you.”

Juan Sanchez

“I am not religious, so it is not my place to dictate to Christians what they should and should not believe. Still, if someone has a faith worth following, I feel that their beliefs should make me uncomfortable for not doing so. If they share 90% of my lifestyle and values, then there is nothing especially inspiring about them. Instead of making me want to become more like them, it looks very much as if they want to become more like me.”

Ben Sixsmith

3. Future options (v16-17)

- Jesus' **Word** (v16)

Revelation 2v16

Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Hebrews 4v12

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.



“God’s way to overcome error is the proclamation of the gospel of Christ, which is God’s power for the salvation of all those who believe. Falsehood will not be suppressed by the gruesome methods of the inquisition, or the burning of heretics at the stake, or by restrictive legislation. Ideas will not be overcome by force. Only truth can defeat error. The false ideologies of the world can be overthrown only by the superior ideology of Christ. We have no other weapon than this sword. We must use it fearlessly.”

John Stott

3. Future options (v16-17)

- Jesus' **Word** (v16)
- Jesus' **authority** (v16)
- Jesus' **reward** (v17)

Revelation 2v17

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

ivp

A New Name

Grace and healing for anorexia

Emma Scrivener



“Revelation 2v17 tells us that Jesus will give us a ‘new name’ on the last day. It is a name that is written on a white stone and it is for our eyes only... it is who we really are. And hearing it will be like returning to our native shore after years of exile. It is like coming home to rest and wholeness and peace.”

Emma Scrivener

