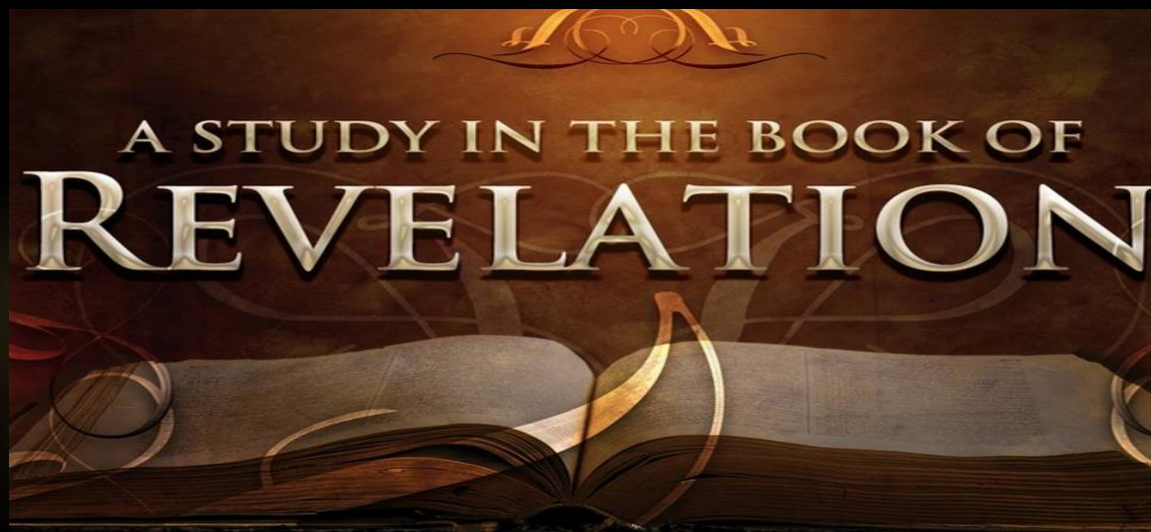


SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



SRMBC May - Jul Bible Study Schedule

Date	Subject	Scripture
5/1/2019	Lesson 1: An Illustrated Letter from Jesus	Revelation 1
5/8/2019	Lesson 2: Pardon My Speaking the Truth	Revelation 2
5/15/2019	Lesson 3: My Dear Compromised People	Revelation 3
5/22/2019	Lesson 4: Worship the All-Powerful Lamb	Revelation 4 – 5
5/29/2019	Lesson 5: The Beautiful Wrath of God	Revelation 6
6/5/2019	Lesson 6: Living Faithfully Through the Holocaust	Revelation 7, 16
6/12/2019	Lesson 7: Cheer Up! The Worst Is Yet to Come!	Revelation 8 – 9
6/19/2019	Lesson 8: The Last Word on Witness	Revelation 10 - 11
6/27/2019	Lesson 9: Conflict with the Accuser	Revelation 12 – 13
7/3/2019	Lesson 10: Doing Mission in Hard Times	Revelation 14 – 15
7/10/2019	Lesson 11: Tearing Down Strongholds	Revelation 17 – 18
7/17/2019	Lesson 12: Are You Going to the Wedding?	Revelation 19
7/24/2019	Lesson 13: The Last Battle	Revelation 20
7/31/2019	Lesson 14: God Dwelling with His People	Revelation 21 – 22

SRMBC Family Bible Study

Revelation - The Triumph Of God Lesson 2: **Pardon My Speaking the Truth** Revelation 2

The Apostle John – The Book of Revelation

- **Author:** Revelation 1:1,4,9 and 22:8 identify the author as the apostle John.
- **Date of Writing:** The Book of Revelation was likely written between A.D. 90 and 95.
- **Purpose of Writing:** The Revelation of Jesus Christ was given to John by God (while in exile on the Isle of Patmos) to tell his servants about the last days before Christ's return, the final judgment of sin and Satan and the new heaven and new earth.

The Book Of Revelation:

- Gives us a glimpse of heaven and the glories awaiting those who keep their robes white.
- Informs us on the Great Tribulation and the final fire that unbelievers will face for all eternity.
- Records the defeat of Satan and the doom he and his angels are bound for.
- Shows us the worship and service of all creatures and angels of heaven and the promises of eternal life with Jesus in the New Jerusalem.



John on the Isle of Patmos

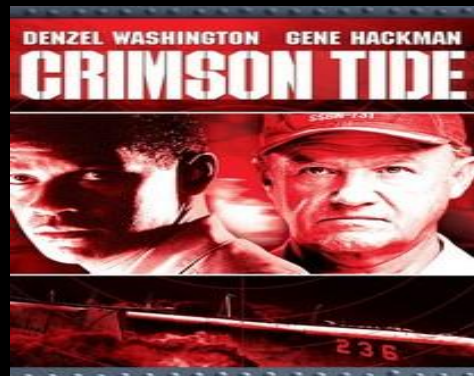
The 7 Churches of the Revelation



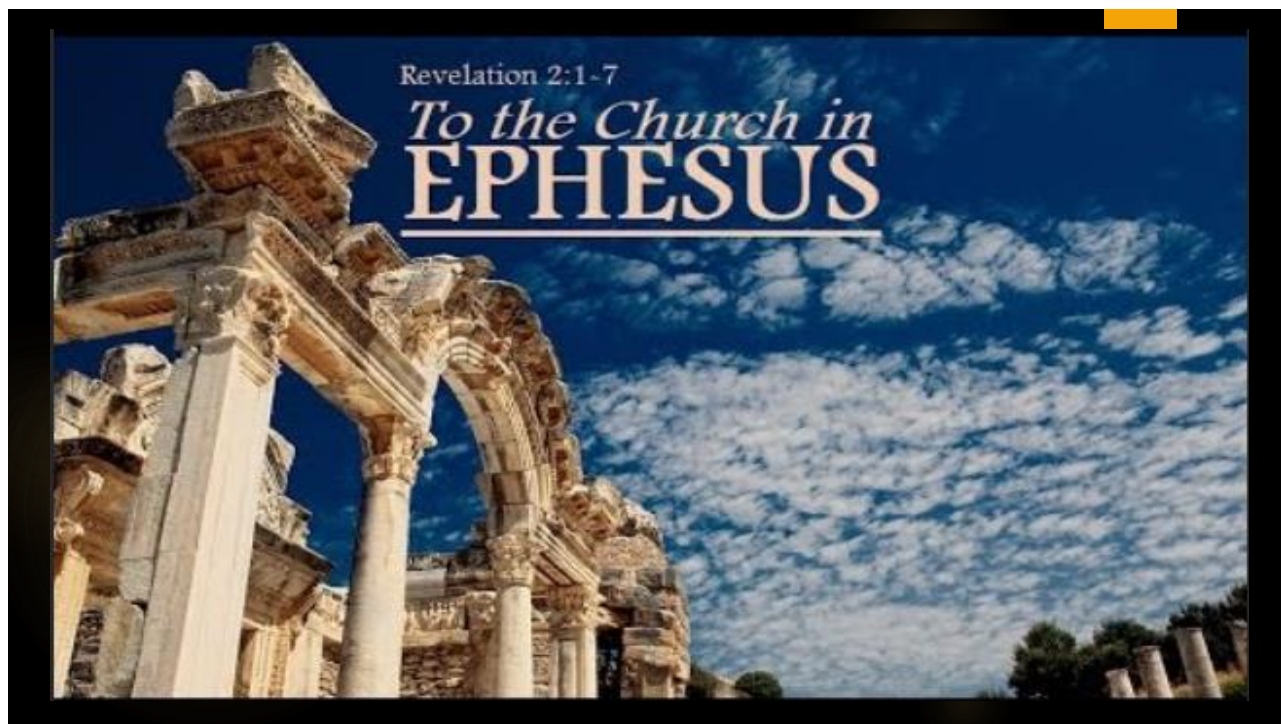
Group Discussion: Talk about how you have seen confrontation handled well—and poorly. Give some specific examples. What were the long-term results?



A cocky, naturally-gifted snare drummer from Harlem helps his Atlanta College marching band defeat a long-time rival in a southern battle-of-the-bands.



On a U.S. nuclear missile sub, a young First Officer stages a mutiny, to prevent his trigger happy Captain from launching his missiles, before confirming his orders to do so.



Revelation 2:1 – 4 (NKJV)

1 “To the angel of the **church of Ephesus** write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

2 “**I know your works**, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, **and have found them liars**;

3 and **you have persevered and have patience**, and have labored for My name’s sake and **have not become weary**.

4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that **you have left your first love**.

Revelation 2:5 – 7 (NKJV)

5 **Remember** therefore from where you have fallen; **repent** and **do the first works**, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you **repent**.

6 **But this you have**, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 “He **who has an ear**, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the **tree of life**, which is in the midst of the **Paradise of God**.” ’

1. Why would forsaking “your first love” (v. 4) be so tragic for this church?

- **Loss of Reputation** - Ephesus was a church with a Great reputation – a light in dark area of false gods and false worship
- **Loss of Relationship** – they would not be as close to Christ or as close to one another
- **Loss of Reward** - Jesus would remove their assignment and opportunity to minister on His behalf forfeiting eternal reward (cf: 1 Cor 3:12 – 13; Rev. 22:12 -14).



2. Why do you think Christ's judgment would be so severe if they did not repent (v. 5)?

- Jesus will have nothing to do with loveless orthodoxy. (During His earthly ministry, Jesus expressed His harshest criticism for the religious hypocrites of His day.
- While a church may resist false teachers, it is not a church if people do not love Christ and each other.
- When a church (or individual) does not demonstrate the love Christ the witness to community is damaged making it danger to the Gospel.



2. If we have lost our first love, what steps can we take to renew our commitment to Jesus?

Jesus Instructions	Steps to Renewal
Remember – “remember therefore from where you have fallen”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take an honest (biblical) assessment of your walk. • Review your conversion/salvation. • Ask the Lord to show you where you are and where you need to be.
Repent – “...unless you repent”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confession – Admit your wrong before the Lord • Contrition – Express sorrow (Ps. 38:18, II Cor 7:10) • Commit – Make a personal choice to change
Return – “do the first works”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change your mind – Renew out thinking • Change your heart – Renew out passion • Change your actions – Just Do it

THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA AND THE CROWN OF LIFE



"[...] Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."
Revelation 2:10

Revelation 2:8 - 11 (NKJV)

8 "And to the angel of the **church in Smyrna** write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:

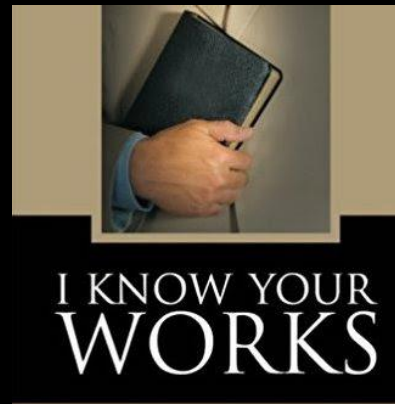
9 "**I know your works**, tribulation, and poverty (**but you are rich**); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are **a synagogue of Satan**.

10 **Do not fear** any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and **you will have tribulation ten days**. Be faithful until death, and **I will give you the crown of life**.

11 "He who has an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches**. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by **the second death**."

3. What does Jesus know about the believers in Smyrna?

- Jesus knows the trouble the Church is facing on a day-to day basis (*Physical, Spiritual, Financial*)
- Jesus knows their enemies (and has them on a leash)
- Jesus knows their time of testing (10 days – temporary)
- Jesus knows the end and as rewards for faithfulness



Note: “Ten days” (v. 10) may simply mean a reasonably short period of persecution.

4. How might Jesus’ statements about Himself, as well as his promises, solidify their faithfulness and ours?

Jesus Statements about Himself	Encouragements	Jesus Promises	Encouragements
<i>“the First and the Last”</i>	Jesus knows the end from the beginning – nothing is taking Him by surprise.	<i>“but you are rich”</i>	Jesus promises spiritual blessings that we may not be aware of and that the world/Satan can’t give or take away
<i>“who was dead, and came to life”</i>	Jesus has been through what we are going through – He has felt our pain – yet has overcome.	<i>“you will have tribulation ten days...”</i>	Our trouble, no matter how intense is temporary. Jesus has set a limit.
<i>“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty”</i>	Jesus knows our current situation – he knows and cares	<i>“I will give you the crown of life”</i>	There is an eternal reward – that is priceless and worth all the trouble. Jesus is a good employer who never lets His people work in vain.
<i>“I know the blasphemy of those...”</i>	Jesus knows we have enemies and has grace for us to endure and will deal with them in His time.	<i>“...shall not be hurt by the second death”</i>	We will be safe, avoiding the 2 nd death. Our end will be secure. Thank you, Lord.

5. What role does affirmation play in helping Christians who are under spiritual pressure?

- It is possible – even under intense spiritual pressure, to live in such a way that pleases God.
- Affirmation at just the right time, can keep a person on the edge from throwing in the towel
- Affirmation can let people know that they are not alone in their struggles (Stop faking it).
- Affirmation creates and fosters unity in the Family of God – you will want to be with people who encourage rather than discourage.

Flatter me, and I may not believe you.
 Criticize me, and I may not like you.
 Ignore me, and I may not forgive you.
 Encourage me, and I will not forget you.

William Arthur Ward, author

CHURCH IN PERGAMUM AND THE BREAD OF LIFE



"[...] To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it."
 Revelation 2:17

Revelation 3:12 - 15 (NKJV)

12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

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

15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Revelation 3:16 - 17 (NKJV)

16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it." '

6. How had the church responded to the lure of these temptations?

Temptation in Pergamum/Pergamos	Church Response
"...where Satan's throne is." ...where Satan dwells	"And You Hold Fast To My Name" – They continued to witness/worship Jesus exclusively – standing out as Jesus followers/worshippers – despite the attacks of Satan
"...Antipas was My faithful martyr...was killed among you"	"...did not deny My faith" – No going back or compromising – even though it cost the life of one of their own.
"the doctrine of Balaam...a stumbling block; the doctrine of the Nicolaitans"	They overlooked or even accepted the false teaching/teachers among them – things that even Jesus hates
"to eat things sacrificed to idols"	Mixing worldliness with their worship and their lifestyles
"to commit sexual immorality"	Greasy grace – loose living as it relates to Christian sexual ethics. (fornication, adultery, divorce, etc.)

7. What temptations lure the church today?

- **Persecution** – intense opposition designed to bring so much fear that we will deny the Name and Faith of Christ.
- **False Teaching** – There is a teaching inside and outside the Church that distorts or rejects Biblical Truth.
- **Compromise** – Instead stand for truth, we are tempted to be silent or look the other way.
- **Worldliness** – To mix the ways of the world with the lifestyle worship of the Lord in order to fit in.



Should a Christian be tolerant of others' religious beliefs? Yes, in the classical sense. However, Jesus is the truth. Christians are called to tolerate – and even to love – people without accepting their false beliefs.

8. How is verse 16 a contrast to the way we often think of Jesus' coming?

- We often think of Jesus 2nd coming as – Him coming as “Santa Claus”.
- But Jesus is coming not meek and mild as a Lamb but as the Lion of Judah – Man of War and as King wielding the sword of Judgement
- If the rulers of this world exercise power and authority – imagine how much more swift, intense and righteous the judgment of the Most-High and Holy God will be?



Church in Thyatira: look at the small gate and the narrow path.



*"And he that overcomes, and keeps my works unto the end,
to him will I give power over the nations".*

Revelation 2:26

Revelation 3:18 – 22 (NKJV)

18 “And to the angel of **the church in Thyatira** write, ‘These things says **the Son of God**, who has **eyes like a flame of fire**, and His **feet like fine brass**:

19 “I **know your works**, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, **the last are more than the first**.

20 Nevertheless I **have a few things against you**, because you allow **that woman Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach **and seduce My servants** to commit **sexual immorality** and eat things sacrificed to idols.

21 And I gave her **time to repent** of her sexual immorality, and **she did not repent**.

Revelation 3:23 – 26 (NKJV)

22 Indeed I **will cast her into a sickbed**, and those who commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, unless **they repent of their deeds**

23 I **will kill her children with death**, and all the **churches shall know that I am** He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you **according to your works**.

24 “Now to you I say, and to **the rest in Thyatira**, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, **I will put on you no other burden**.

25 **But hold fast** what you have till I come.

Revelation 3:27 – 29 (NKJV)

26 And **he who overcomes**, and keeps My works until the end, **to him I will give power** over the nations—

27 '**He shall rule** them with a rod of iron; They shall be **dashed to pieces** like the potter's vessels'—as I also have received from My Father;

28 and I will give him **the morning star**.

29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the **Spirit says to the churches**." '

9. Jezebel (v. 20) is an Old Testament character who symbolizes spiritual adultery (1 Kings 16:31). How was the so-called prophetess in Thyatira like her namesake?

"Jezebel" is a name that is the epitome of the wicked woman. Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal, who murdered his own brother. Jezebel followed in her father's evil footsteps.

- Ordered the extermination of the prophets of the Lord (1 Kings 18:4, 13) and set up altars to Baal.
- Jezebel vowed to kill Elijah (1 Kings 19:1-2). Elijah fled from her wrath to the wilderness (1 Kings 19:3-8).
- Plotted to have Naboth falsely accused put to death to take his vineyard and give it to Ahab (1 Kings 21:1-16).
- Jezebel was thrown out the window to her death, trampled by the horses' and almost entirely consumed by dogs.
- Jesus used her name to refer to a woman who led the church at Thyatira into immorality and the worship of false gods (Revelation 2:20).



JEZEBEL

9. Jezebel (v. 20) is an Old Testament character who symbolizes spiritual adultery (1 Kings 16:31). How was the so-called prophetess in Thyatira like her namesake?

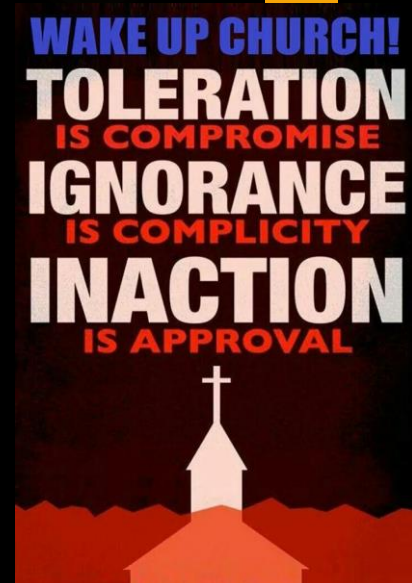
Jezebel – 1 Kings 18 – 21 OT	"Jezebel" – Rev 3:20 – 22 NT
Plotted to have Naboth falsely accused put to death to take his vineyard and give it to Ahab (1 Kings 21:1 - 16).	20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess...
Ordered the extermination of the prophets of the Lord (1 Kings 18:4, 13) and set up altars to Baal.	20... to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.
Jezebel was thrown out the window to her death, trampled by the horses' and almost entirely consumed by dogs.	22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds 23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts



Despite how bad this "Jezebel" is, Jesus is giving her ample time to change, to repent, to turn from her wicked ways before the judgement comes. We should never confuse God's patience as approval of our disobedience.

10. Jesus charges this godly and loving church with being too tolerant of evil in its midst. In what areas are Christians today too tolerant?

- Jesus Was Narrow About the Way of Salvation.
- Jesus Was Intolerant Toward Hypocrisy.
- Jesus Was Intolerant Toward Selfishness.
- Jesus Was Intolerant Toward Sin.



11. How might Jesus' example guide us as we care for a brother or sister ready to cave in under pressure?

- Be Discerning – Seeing others and situations from a Spiritual/Scriptural perspective.
- Be Honest – About the struggles, the hardships, the rewards and the warnings.
- Be Encouraging – The focus is to assist the person to be the best they can
- Be challenging – Serious and not “Sugar – Coating” problems or issues.



“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:23 – 25)


Keys For Living

- ***As the Lord and Head of the Church, Jesus has the authority and ability from the Father to assess and judge every Body of Believers.***
- ***All of our works – whether good or bad, are seen and will be rewarded by the Lord Jesus at the Judgement (I Cor. 5:9 -11).***
- ***It is possible to consistently live a life that pleases God despite the temptations and pressures of this world. Believers should encourage one another so that we don't give up.***

QUESTIONS



JESUS TAKES NOTICE OF OUR WORKS



Revelation 3:8 I know thy **WORKS**: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.