

**ADULT BIBLE CLASSES**  
**Bible Community Church of North Mentor**  
**March 14, 2010**

*This week's lesson is Revelation 2:1-17.* The second and third chapters of Revelation contain seven letters to seven different churches. They are the churches already mentioned in last week's lesson (1:4,11). The letters are simple enough, but you will find a great argument in the commentaries as to whether or not these epistles were meant to be prophetic. One side of the argument believes that these letters picture seven different ages of church history from the early church to the rapture. The other side believes that they were seven letters, sent to seven churches about the state of the churches. All seven different conditions existed in the first century churches and all seven conditions exist in churches today.

Which side of the argument is correct? The writer of this lesson believes that they are seven historical letters, not meant to be prophetic. (1) John was concerned about seven churches which he had helped to found; but, as an exile he could not visit them. God gave him seven letters to meet their needs. (2) The outline of Revelation as given in 1:19 says that John was to, "write . . . the things which are . . ." It is logical to believe that this statement covers the portion assigned to these letters. (3) It takes real forcing to make church history fit into the mold of these seven letters.

*Memory Verses:* **Revelation 1:8** is a fine verse to know on the eternity of God. This is our second week on it, so we should know it letter perfect. By now you have a memory packet. Use it. \_\_\_\_\_

*Is the Lord watching our church?* These seven letters would indicate to us that He is. He could diagnose all of our problems and correct us in a moment. It seems that the wise thing for us to do is to, "judge ourselves that we be not judged." We need to apply such judgments personally. Is the church cold-hearted? How is the temperature of your own heart? Is the church unfriendly? How is your friendliness? Is the church worldly? Are you guilty of worldly habits and thinking?

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1. The major part of today's work will be in completing the chart on the reverse side of this sheet. Each of the letters follows the same outline - - Introduction, Commendation, Condemnation and Exhortation. In the spaces provided jot down the major points made to each church. To help you get started we have given the appropriate verse numbers for the first church mentioned. You may find one of the sections omitted in a letter or two.

**TO THINK ABOUT**

Look over the three different introductions. You will notice that each introduction refers to a part of the vision seen in the first chapter. What connection do you see between the part of the vision chosen and the state of the church in each case?

2. Write a few lines about the way the message of verse 5 might be applied to your life. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Take a close look at the exhortation to each church. Do these teach that those who overcome shall be saved? Is "overcoming" the way of salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

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CHURCH	EPHESUS	SMYRNA	PERGAMOS
Introduction	1.		
Commendation	2,3,6		
Condemnation	4,5		
Exhortation	7		