

# A Complete Look at Church History

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*The Two End Time Churches; (one is Real and the other False)*



*The Real Church (The Missionary Church)*

And to the angel of **the church in Philadelphia** write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; 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**. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but **do lie**;

behold, **I will make them to come and worship before thy feet**, and **to know that I have loved thee**. Because thou hast **kept the word of my patience**, I also will keep thee **from the hour of temptation**, which shall come upon all the world, to **try them that dwell upon the earth**. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that **no man take thy crown**. Him that **overcometh** will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. (Rev. 3:7-12)

### ***The Fake Church***

And to the angel of **the church in Laodicea** write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. ‘So because you are **lukewarm**, and neither hot nor cold, **I will spit you out of My mouth**. ‘Because you say, “**I am rich**, and have **become wealthy**, and have **need of nothing**,” and you do not know that you are **wretched** and **miserable** and **poor** and **blind** and **naked**, I advise you to buy **from Me gold refined by fire**, that you may become rich, and **white garments**, that you may clothe yourself, and that the **shame of your nakedness may not be revealed**; and **eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see**. **Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline**; **be zealous** therefore, and **repent**. ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me. **He who overcomes**, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. (Rev. 3:14-21) NASB

*Today's Church has strayed far from the scriptures and teachings of Jesus Christ its Founder! In fact, if Jesus sat in most churches today, he would not even acknowledge what they are teaching and would be upset and angry at their conduct (immorality and lack of integrity).*

**They will act religious**, but they will **reject the power that could make them godly** (*the Holy Spirit*). Stay away from people like that! (2Tim. 3:5) NLT

Having a **form of godliness but denying its power** (*the Holy Spirit*).  
Have nothing to do with them. (2 Tim. 3:5) NIV

***Let's Examine Church History!***

***After the Ascension of Christ Only the Apostle John Remained***

*After the death of the last apostle (John), the church had no personal example to imitate. Over time, the church began to deviate from the Truth and became what is called - **the Catholic Church**. In this time period the Devil almost destroyed the Church of God completely. This era is recognized as **the Dark Ages**. Centuries before the 16th century reform were dark times for the church. As the papacy and the ruling church increased in power across Europe, they cast a dark cloak across the land. Corruption, doctrinal decline, and great immorality swept through the church, making this period known as the **Middle Ages of Christianity**. It was dark because **the light of the Gospel of Christ** was almost extinguished in this period, because the darkness of sin had permeated all the ranks of the church, from the Pope to the common people. While the church continued to maintain an appearance of piety and Christianity, it was quite a spectacle to deceive the laity. They mentioned Jesus Christ and God but only in name, not in deeds and doctrine. They were like a people groping in the dark with only the sparks of their own burning fire, without the true light of Christ and His Word guiding them. **Here is where the false doctrines of devils came into the church!** Sale of indulgences; holy water; purgatory; mass in Latin; prayer to Mary; and the saints; adoration of images; kissing the feet of the pope; canonization of the deceased; celibacy of the priests; transubstantiation; the infallibility of the pope:*

***However; God is faithful and kept a remnant, even in those moments, for the preservation and diffusion of Truth.***

### ***God Begins to Reform His Church (in the fourteenth century)***

*One of the earliest reformers was John Wycliffe, an English theologian and one of the first advocates of reform in the fourteenth century. His followers, known as Lollards, spread across England, but were soon hunted down by both leaders of the Roman Catholic Church and government officials. Wycliffe influenced Jan Hus, a Czech priest from Prague. After Hus was burned at the stake for heresy, his followers dominated the Kingdom of Bohemia and then spread to Silesia and Moravia. Some of his followers waged the Hussite wars, with the ultra-cyst faction eventually defeating the forces backed by the pope. Another similar group were the Waldenses. Both Wycliffe and Hus preached against indulgences. Hus wrote his Six Mistakes, posted at the door of his church, in which he criticized the corruption of the clergy and touched on other subjects that under the later Luther became the key to the Reformation. After the Battle of White Mountain, the persecuted Hussites established minor churches such as the Brothers Unit (and its international branch of the Moravian Church). Martin Luther was a German monk, theologian, university professor, priest, **father of Protestantism**, and **church reformer** whose ideas started the Protestant Reformation.*

***Then Movements like Evangelicalism arose, the Main Denominations, and Pentecostalism:***

*The word Evangelicalism refers to a type of Christian belief and practice. In conservative Protestant Christianity, although some Catholic Christians would also call themselves Evangelicals. Evangelicals believe in spreading their faith (evangelism), the need to convert, also called being born again, believing what is in the Bible and the need to live a moral life both personally and in society.*

*The last group to emerge from the "**great awakenings**" in North America was **Pentecostalism**, which had its roots in the Methodist, Wesleyan, and Holiness movements, and began in 1906 on Azusa Street, in Los Angeles. Pentecostalism would later lead to the charismatic movement. The evangelical charismatic movement represents the evangelical churches that focus and insist on the gifts of the Spirit. It started in the United States In the 1960s, the "second wave" has influenced churches of all Christian denominations and has contributed to the creation of many independent evangelical churches. The movement is distinguished from Pentecostalism by not making speaking in tongues (glossolalia) necessary evidence of the baptism of the Spirit and giving importance to the diversity of spiritual gifts.*

***The 7 Church Ages of Revelation;*** (thank you Jimmy Swaggart)

<b><u>The Church</u></b>	<b><u>The Church Age</u></b>	<b><u>Time Frame</u></b>
<b>1. Ephesus</b>	<b>The Apostolic Church</b>	<b>30 to 100 AD</b>
<b>2. Smyrna</b>	<b>The Martyr Church</b>	<b>100 to 300 AD</b>
<b>3. Pergamos</b>	<b>The State Church - laid the groundwork for Catholicism</b>	<b>300 to 500 AD</b>
<b>4. Thyatira</b>	<b>The Papal Church - Beginning of Catholicism and the Dark ages</b>	<b>500 to Today AD</b>
<b>5. Sardis</b>	<b>The Reformation Church</b>	<b>1500 to Today AD</b>
<b>6. Philadelphia</b>	<b>The Missionary Church</b>	<b>1800 to this present age</b>
<b>7. Laodicea</b>	<b>The Apostate Church</b>	<b>this present age</b>

## *You'll Notice the Seven Churches Represent an Exact Image of Church History*

### **1. EPHESUS** (Rev. 2:2-7)

**I know thy works**, and thy **labour**, and thy **patience**, (*implies Divine knowledge*) and how thou **canst not bear them which are evil**: and thou **hast tried them which say they are apostles**, and **are not**, and **hast found them liars**: (*proves these lied and departed from True Doctrine*):

And hast borne, and **hast patience**, and **for my name's sake hast laboured**, and **hast not fainted**. (*continued to believe even when things were not going well; they were diligent in their efforts and would not quit*).

Nevertheless **I have somewhat against thee**, because **thou hast left thy first love**. (*something was wrong despite their zeal, notice, not lost their love but rather left your first love: this refers to the crucifixion of Jesus*).

**Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen**, and **repent**, and **do the first works**; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and **will remove thy candlestick out of his place**, **except thou repent**. (*this means they fell from Grace, and stopped depending on what Christ did for them at the Cross. they were to repent or be destroyed*).

But this thou hast, that thou **hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans**, **which I also hate**. (*the word "Nicolaitans" means "laity-conquerors. They are preachers who exploited the people instead of spiritually developing them, which all false doctrine does*).

He that hath an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit** saith unto the churches; To him that **overcometh** will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. (*all Biblical doctrine must begin with Jesus and Him Crucified. Christians can only overcome by exclusively placing their faith in the Cross of Christ which then gives the Holy Spirit latitude to work*).

### **2. SMYRNA** (Rev. 2:9-11)

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (**but thou art rich**)

*(Smyrna was poverty stricken outwardly, but the Lord proclaimed them spiritually rich).*

and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. *(rejecting the Doctrine of the Cross is considered by the Lord as Satanic).*

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. *(this church went thru 10 major persecutions spanning 200 years, many paid with their lives).*

He that hath an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit** saith unto the churches; He that **overcometh** shall not be hurt of the second death. *(this is telling us there may be suffering, but to be faithful till the end).*

### **3. PERGAMOS** (Rev. 2:13-17)

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: *(Satan had become part of the church. During the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great (AD 306–337), Christianity began to transition to the dominant religion of the Roman Empire. Historians remain uncertain about Constantine's reasons for favoring Christianity).*

and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. *(despite the terrible condition, some were holding fast to Christ and continuing to look to the Cross; this persecution came from within the Church).*

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. *(this Church was committing spiritual adultery, meaning they had shifted their Faith from the Cross to other things; with money being the underlying cause, referring to the State Church).*

So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. *(at Ephesus, it was the deeds of the Nicolaitans, but now it became doctrine. This refers to unscriptural Church Government which grossly exploited the people).*

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. *(this will bring to bear the Word of God, divine Judgment).*

He that hath an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit** saith unto the churches; To him that **overcometh** will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. *(the Spirit is saying that all Church Government must be Scriptural).*

#### **4. THYATIRA** (Rev. 2:19-29)

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. *(some in this Church, wrong as it was, continued to Love the Lord; the Lord knew who they were).*

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. *(the Lord is speaking here of spiritual fornication and adultery, which means they had forsaken Christ and the Cross for other things). **Here is where the false doctrines of devils came into the church!** The indulgence system was formalized by Pope Urban II (1035–1099) during the Council of Clement in 1095. Sale of indulgences; holy water; purgatory; mass in Latin; prayer to Mary; and the saints; adoration of images; kissing the feet of the pope; canonization of the deceased; celibacy of the priests; transubstantiation; the infallibility of the pope;)*

And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. *(the Church did not heed the message, and in fact, continues in their “Salvation by works” unto this day which course is false).*

Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. *(The bed refers to false teachers who taught Salvation by Works, which was spiritual adultery. Again there was a warning to repent).*

And I will kill her children with death; (*spiritual death*) and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

*(this is a continuous, ongoing search. One can look at the works of an individual and ascertain exactly where their faith is. True works proclaim the Fruit of the Spirit).*

But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; (*those that have not succumbed to the teaching of Jezebel. Jezebel was a very wicked woman, all her teachings were spiritual adultery against the Lord. She opposed the Cross and is labeled here as “the depths of Satan.”*)

I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. (*their total burden was the opposition of Jezebel’s teachings. Think about going against congress, the media, all the other cohorts that are trying to take over this nation*).

And he that **overcometh**, and **keepeth** my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. (*remember - it is His Works not ours; it is what Jesus did on the Cross. This is talking about the saints in the Kingdom age under Christ.. Where we will rule with Christ with authority and an iron fist, not allowing evil to prevail or even take root.*)

And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit** saith unto the churches. (*the Spirit is saying here, to leave Christ and the Cross is spiritual Adultery and Suicide.*)

## **5. SARDIS** (Rev. 3:1-6)

I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. (*the Lord proclaims “**you are spiritually dead.**” They need to come back to the Cross before they totally lose their way; **Deception.***)



Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

*(Destruction and Judgment will come but Sardis will not see or hear due to spiritual blindness and deafness.)*

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. *(the Lord always has a few “**a remnant**.” we are made worthy “strength and Power” by our Faith in Christ and the Cross).*

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. *(this proves that names can be blotted out of the Book of Life; “**Conditional Eternal Security**.”)*

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

## **6. PHILADELPHIA** (Rev. 3:7-13)

These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; *(Christ has total authority. No one can change what He does.)*

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. *(the Lord proclaims that; “**the True church is small and has little strength**. But with His Power and Authority will touch the world.)*

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. *(the Lord will cause the false Jews and the false Church to bow down and acknowledge that we are the True Believers in Christ. Proving that we are the real ones that loved Him with all our hearts.*

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. *(the Church, the Body of Christ will Not Go Thru the Tribulation.)*

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. *(this means - keep up your ministry till the very end. Don't quit and give up your Crown.)*

Him that **overcometh** will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit** saith unto the churches. *(the Spirit is saying - we must be ready for the Rapture.)*

## 7. **LAODICIA** (Rev. 3:15-22)

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. *(this church is Lukewarm, this could be likened to the ones that visit twice a year or even attend every Sunday, but never work or take serious the Word of God. Jesus expects everyone to work in His Vineyard. We see this **Command** in the **Great Commission**. It is a **Command** not a suggestion.*

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: *(they equated the increase in material goods with spiritual blessings. The tragedy lay in the fact that while the church gloated over material wealth, she was unconscious of her spiritual poverty; again indicative of the modern Church).*

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. *(what they needed to buy could not be purchased with money but only with the precious Blood of Christ. This tell's us the Laodicean Church is extremely **self-righteous**; not having the Righteousness of Christ. They are naked to the Judgment of God. The modern church is also spiritually blind.)*

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

*(Notice Jesus punishes Believers to get them Right with Him; “**Heb. 12:5-11**.” True Believers must know Him personally and acknowledge His Lordship. Notice too, here Jesus is Outside the Church trying to get in.)*

To him that **overcometh** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit** saith unto the churches.

*There Are TWO Words Repeated Throughout the **7** Churches;*

**Overcometh** and **Hear What the Spirit is saying**:

*How do we Overcome?*

And they **overcame him by the blood of the Lamb**, and **by the word of their testimony**; and they loved not their lives unto the death. (Rev. 12:11)