

## HE THAT HATH AN EAR

### Revelation Chapter Two

1. *Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things says he that holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;*
2. *I know your works, and your labor, and your patience, and how you can not bear them which are evil: and thou has tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and has found them liars.*
3. *And has borne, and has patience, and for my name's sake has labored, and has not fainted.*
4. *Nevertheless I have somewhat against you, because you have left your first love.*
5. *Remember therefore from whence you are fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto you quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except you repent.*
6. *But this thou hast, that thou hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*
7. *He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches; To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*
8. *And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*
9. *I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you are rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*
10. *Fear none of those things which thou shall suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that you may be tried; and you shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life.*
11. *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches; He that overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death.*
12. *And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things says he which has the sharp sword with two edges;*
13. *I know your works, and where you dwell, even where Satan's seat is and you hold fast my name, and have not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwells.*
14. *But I have a few things against you, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac, to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*
15. *So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*
16. *Repent, or else I will come unto you quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*
17. *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches; To him that overcomes 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 knows saving he receives it.*
18. *And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things says the Son of God, who has his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;*
  19. *I know your works, and charity, and service, and faith, and your patience, and your works; and the last to be more than the first.*
  20. *Notwithstanding I have a few things against you because you suffer that woman Jezebel, which calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*
  21. *And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.*
  22. *Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.*
  23. *And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searches the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.*
  24. *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; I will put upon you none other burden.*
  25. *But that which you have already hold fast till I come.*
  26. *And he that overcomes, and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*
  27. *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.*
  28. *And I will give him the morning star.*
  29. *He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches.*

Basically this is a foundational chapter. The first chapter was very foundational this chapter is again foundational to a lot of things that we are going to see. There is a lot of symbolism in these chapters. We like to think these seven churches are seven different churches. Well that is not exactly true. There are seven churches spoken of and the number seven is literally a symbolic number. It is not a literal number as listing just “seven churches” as there were hundreds of gathering places in this time. But he’s using this as symbolism to show you seven things about the churches. Do you remember there were seven Spirits of God? The seven eyes of God the seven Spirits of God. Those are what He is going to speak about here. There are seven different pieces in this puzzle that He is putting back together. In the first chapter I taught you before, I can’t go back and bring it all through, but He spoke about the seven churches in the eleventh verse in chapter one. He named them out, and I’m not going to go back and name them again. He says in the following verses, in chapter one starting with verse twelve and ending in verse seventeen, “*And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two edged sword and his countenance was as the sun shines in his strength.*”

Now that was a description of whom? Jesus the Christ. Now I'm going to lay this out ahead of time so you can see it as we come to it. Each one of these churches has one portion of that description. So I am not talking about seven totally different churches. I am talking about one whole that has seven different pieces to it. It is like having a pie and cutting it into seven pieces. Each piece is a piece of the pie, but together they make up one whole. So it's the "whole of the church. God is not into division, God is not separating, God is not tearing down, but God is bringing everything into oneness, completeness, and the fullness. That is what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about. It's called the Feast of Ingathering or the Feast of Oneness where we all come together. That is what God is working us toward. He is bringing us together. Now in that process there is a lot of things that goes on, but it's still going to end up in the same thing; it is back into the oneness.

Now let me go back to the first verse of chapter two: "*to the angel of the church of Ephesus*" literally he is speaking to the messenger or the pastor or the leader of the church of Ephesus. The word Ephesus means "permitted". "*These things says he that holds the seven stars in his right hand,*" Now if I have something in my hand, what have I got over it? Control and authority. So he says, "*the one that holds the seven stars*"; and what are the seven stars? The angels of the seven churches. Not the churches, it's the seven stars. Now why is it important that Jesus has these seven stars in His right hand? He has full power and authority in His right hand. So He's saying the one's that I have set over the churches are in whose control? GOD'S. God is in control, is He not? He has control of His ministry. There is a lot of man made ministry going on, but I am speaking about what Jesus is talking about. There is a spiritual ministry that He has set and that ministry is controlled by Him.

It says, "*He holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks in the midst (or middle) of the seven golden candlesticks*" and the candlesticks represent the churches. So the pastors that are pasturing the churches that God has set, it says He is in control of them and He walks in the *midst* of those stars. The word "midst" means middle so what do you think He is talking about here. He is in my Spirit. If God is running this fellowship then God is in my Spirit and He is in controlling what I am doing. He has full power and authority to do that. Most people do not submit their authority to God. They do what they think and then expect God to match up with what they are doing. I'm sorry but God does not do that. God is changing us into His image. We are not supposed to change God into our image. I heard a man say one time, "Gods new name is, and then He said his own name". Well I'm sorry but I don't believe that, not for one second and never bought it when he said it. God is changing me into Him, not Him into me. God is not becoming me. I'm becoming like Him. We have to watch because some people twist this stuff around and put themselves in there real quick.

Back to verse one: "*who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks*" the word candlestick is literally a lampstand. I can see where they got candlestick, but the language literally says "lampstand". If you have a lampstand what is on the very top of the lampstand? The light. So the light should be in what position? The highest realm. If we are the vessel God is using where should the light be? In our minds. Our minds should be enlightened to the mind of Christ.

Vs 2 "*I know*" the word "know" is not right, it is "I see". It is the word, eido (i-do) and it means, "I see" so, "*I see your works and your labours*" the word labour is, grief, sorrow, and pain. "*I see your works and your grief and your sorrow and your pain and your patience and how you cannot*

*bear* (or you can not endure depravity) *them which are evil* (them which are evil are depravity or people that are depraved) *and you have tried or literally scrutinized the ones that say they are apostles and are not and found them to be deceitful and wicked.*” We were talking in a meeting about judgment, we have an obligation and you have an obligation for your own good, to scrutinize everything that I teach or anyone else that teaches you. You have an obligation to yourself to scrutinize my life. I don’t have the right to expect you to be blindly obedient to me in any fashion or form. But I have every right and so does God to expect you to search out your own knowledge in this thing. God expects us to work out our own salvation or our own deliverance. Doesn’t He? We have to do that. You have to do it yourself. I’m here to assist you, and that is my purpose. If you don’t check them out, and Paul did say in Thessalonians, “*The Bereans are more noble than the Thessalonians because they search the scriptures daily to see if what I say is true*”. I found out very early on in my walk that no one, and I say this with humility that no one can feed me in this setting. No one can feed me. No one can feed the appetite that is in my Spirit by sitting in a meeting. Some people can be fed that way and some can’t. I cannot be fed by any person on the face of the earth. I don’t believe it. I’ve set under some tremendous words of God, coming from tremendous ministers and people I respect in the word of God, but they can’t feed me. Because that is not my call. They can’t feed me. My call is that I have got to have it every day. I have got to do it daily. I can’t get enough on one day a week to sustain me. I can’t do it. You may be able to do it where you are at right now, but God has got a call on my life that I could never. A pastor that I once sat under told him that he couldn’t feed me and he got upset with that. Well I hope that I can bring someone to the point where I can’t feed them. That is my purpose to raise you up where I can’t feed you any longer. That you are so hungry for the word of God that once or twice a week is not enough. That thrills me to no end. That charges my Spirit to know that I have raised you to a point where now you can take off and feed yourself and feed someone else. That is my desire. That is what God has in my heart to do. Not to build a big church, but to raise people up that can do what I’m doing and have the same desire or even a greater desire than I have and go on and do it. That’s what it is all about. It is not about your self.

When Jesus was given as a sacrifice He was a Son that was birthed. Then He was raised to maturity and when He became maturity. Then what happened? He was sacrificed. So we are part or who? The Christ. So when we come to maturity what is our purpose? To be sacrificed for the rest of creation. It is not about saying, “I’m all grown up and I’m a big guy now”. That is not what it is about. It is about becoming the sacrifice for the rest of humanity. It is not about me saying, “I can just do all things, I’m okay, I’m a big guy now.” That’s not it! It’s about becoming the sacrifice. He knew who He was He was perfect in all things, but yet He laid His life down for us. So if we are part of the Christ, what must we do? We must lay our life down exactly as He did.

Vs 3 “*And hast borne*” or literally endured “*and has patience and through my name*” and the word (sake) is not even there and the word name is singular not pleural. So he is saying “*through my name* (my character or my nature) *you have labored, and have not fainted or grown weary.*” The only way you will not grow weary is by the nature of Christ within you. If you try to do it in your own strength you will always be weary and faint. You will not endure to the end in your own strength. It has to be with the nature of Christ within you. These are good things He is saying about this church. He is saying good things about them.

Vs 4 *“Nevertheless I have somewhat against you, because you have left your first love.”* What do you think that was? The Christ. Many people and many churches, and we are not going to point at churches, I am speaking about people. People get into working and doing things for the church and they forget about God. “The building is not the church” they are the church. If I get into doing too many things I forget about becoming what I am supposed to be. I am then doing “just things”. God is not interested in whether the walls are painted or the floors are swept. He is not as interested in that (and probably not at all). He’s more interested in your walls being cleaned and your floors being cleaned. YOU BEING CLEANED--- THE CALLED OUT ONES, THE CHURCH, THE ECLESIA. We get caught up in natural things and I think this is where the majority of the church is and churched people are. They get caught up and as soon as they come to church they want to know, “what can I do to help”? I’ve seen this for years they want to help. That is great, but that is not what it is about. As a young child when you are born do you go to your Dad and Mom and say, “what can I do to help”? You just lie there and make messes so Mom and Dad can clean them up. Well that is what we are supposed to do because we are young in the Lord. We are babies, we make messes, and someone more mature cleans them up, and they love you through it. That’s what you’re supposed to be. The church expects too much. They put an expectation on people when they come to church to be this great big spiritual mature person, and if you do enough works (if you cut enough grass, wash down enough windows, sweep enough floors, paint enough walls, do all these things), then you’re a good person and you’re spiritual. They haven’t got a clue what they are teaching you. They are teaching you to do works. Ephesians says, *“we are saved by grace through faith and this is a gift of God not of works lest any man should boast”*. We are not changed by what we do, we are changed by what He did, and by understanding what He did for us. That’s where the change comes from.

So these people in this church of Ephesus have (and the name Ephesus means permitted) they have permitted themselves to slide away back into those natural works. They have permitted themselves to go back in that natural way of thinking, “that I can work my way there”.

Vs 5 *“Remember therefore from whence (or where) you have fallen, and repent.”* Remember from where you have fallen, you’ve come away from your first love, which is Christ. You don’t love Him like you did because now you’ve got your eyes upon working. It is not about working, is it? The book says *“we are supposed to labor or work to enter into His rest.”* Not to continue to work. Once you enter into His rest there will be plenty of work to be done. Someone in our fellowship said, *“it is getting easier”*. You see it is not easier, it is getting harder, but you are relying upon the Spirit to do the work in you. It is no longer a labor, but it is a labor of love and there is no effort in that is there? There may work involved, but it is not an effort or a labor, you want to do those things. It is no longer a stress to you to do those things. He also says, *“to repent”* or literally change your mind. Change your thinking. You see the reason that you could fall from loving God, into works, is because your mind has told you something. Do the works and you’ll be okay. So if we get our mind back from the works realm and back into the loving of God realm now we’ll be all right. So the “metanoeo”, the changing of our thinking here, is not to think any longer that works will do it for me, but I’ve got to get back into loving God. Didn’t Jesus say that the greatest two commandments, and all the prophets hung upon that, *“ Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind and body and love your neighbor as yourself*, and do a whole bunch of work”? Did it say that? You see if we love Him the rest of it will follow, but the whole thing hangs on the fact that you love people and you love God first. If you love God you have to love His humanity.

Do you have an option in that? Most people are guilty of loving whom they like and putting up with the rest. WRONG, WRONG, WRONG, WRONG.

Let's continue in this verse: "*and do the first works*" what is that? Loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself. Get back to the Love. Then the words say, "*or else*" it should say, "but if not, *I will come* (literally appear) *unto you quickly or* (or by surprise, I'll surprise you.) Sometimes you will see God pop up in the most unlikely person or place. I've had God pop up in people that I never dreamed that God was in, and they have corrected me and I needed it, but I was blessed to see that God was in that person correcting me. Proverbs says, "*We must love rebuke and correction.*" If we don't, we will never change, because every time we are rebuked or corrected, we will be offended and we will never receive that change that God is giving us. When you come to the place that you can understand that all the people that have hurt you and all the people that have offended you, it is the greatest gift that God could ever give you. It is the only thing that will change you. THANK GOD FOR IT. THANK GOD FOR IT.

He says, "*I will appear by surprise and will remove your candlestick*" (lampstand), and the lampstand is what? Light. He is going to remove your light. It is not necessarily that He is going to remove your church, because you are the church. If you took all the light out of a room how hard would it be for you to do something in it? Would it be difficult? You would be groping around and running into the walls. You need the light and He will remove that light, and if I'm not mistaken He said, "I AM THE LIGHT". He said, "*I'll remove the candlestick out of His place*" Whose place is it? It is His place, not yours. Did He not buy you with a price? So you are His place. Does He not dwell within you? He says, "*I'll take the light from my place, except (or unless) you repent* (or change the way you think)." You see I have to change the way I think. If I think working is what it's all about then I'll be working, but if I change my mind and go back to loving God then things will come back in line. But I've got to stay there and He says, "If you don't repent, I'll remove that light".

**This book is Now.** This book was never written with the intent that someday it would be fulfilled somewhere down the road. Church has said for years that you shouldn't read this book because it is not time. Let's look at chapter twenty-two verse nine and ten: "*Then says he unto me, See you do it not: for I am your fellowservant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. And he says unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.*" The time is NOW. It is not something that is going to happen. From the time this book was written it was relevant in the life of John and the people that were around him in that day in as much as it is in our lives today. It was nothing sent for the future. Yes it was for them and yes it is for us today, which was future to them, and it is for people coming behind us. **But it is a NOW BOOK.** What did He just say? It is at hand. Right now is the time and if we don't understand this book we are going to be missing some pieces of the puzzle. Would you want someone coming to you and telling you how to go from here to Zimbabwe (and I don't have a clue where that's at), and they tell you to go to Florida, and then they would leave out a big space, and say you are in the Continent of Africa. Now how do you get there? Which direction would you go? If you had no understanding, how would you get there? You see the church has removed this book out of their understanding because their carnality won't let them understand it. And they don't dare want to tell people this is a Spiritual book because then it would make them look like they have no light. You see it would make them look dumb. So

what do they do? They tell you, “ don’t read it”. Now this is a book that says, “ YOU’RE BLESSED FOR READING IT”, chapter one verse three. You are blessed just to read this book and to keep the sayings and to understand it. You are blessed and they are keeping it away from you.

Paul said, “*I’ve not shunned to declare the whole gospel unto you*”. So we need the whole thing. We can’t let any of this get away from us. We need every piece that is necessary. It is like having a formula to bake a loaf of bread, if you leave the yeast out is it going to rise? If you leave the eggs out, or the salt out, or any other ingredient, it just isn’t going to be the same is it? We have to have every ingredient that He gives us. He didn’t write anything down here that wasn’t necessary.

Vs 6 “*But this thou hast, that thou hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*” The word Nicolaitans means “ destruction of the people”. Do you know what the Nicolaitans did? They were a people that taught Israel to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality. Now again this is symbolic. To eat things sacrificed to idols. We are not really concerned about someone eating a chicken that was sacrificed to some idol. It is just a piece of meat. I just taught in a meeting “food does not destroy the works of God”. Are we not the works of God? That food doesn’t destroy me no matter what kind of food I eat (unless it’s onions, that might work on me). I don’t like onions. But if I am eating these things in the natural it doesn’t have any affect on me, but if I eat things that are idolatry in my Spirit what does it do to me? It defiles me; it takes the life out of me, because I am defiled by this idolatry. It also says that they taught them to commit sexual immorality. So what is the whole context of this thought? They are unfaithful. The Nicolaitans said, “don’t worry about it do these other things it just doesn’t make any difference.” You see they are unfaithful. If you are sexually immoral, wouldn’t that be unfaithful? That is all God is speaking about. He wants you to be faithful to Him, but the Nicolaitans are saying, “ hey man it’s okay you can worship the basketball game, fishing, cars, hunting, trucks and boats and things, well you can just worship the earth.” There are people today that say, “Hey the earth is what it is all about. I can go out and ride my motorcycle and be close to God. I can go out in the woods and be close to God.” Well I can be close to God anywhere, because God is IN ME!! But that doesn’t mean that I don’t need to be in fellowship with His people, does it? That is the thing they are teaching. It is the mind that teaches this thing. It is not really a group of people, but it is the humanistic view. I hope you understand what I mean. It’s the humanistic view that they are teaching.

Vs 7 “*He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches:*” So who is He talking to? The people. He is talking to the people that are called out, “we are the ecclesia that is called out” a building is not what is being called out; it is just an inanimate object. God is dwelling in temples not made with hands. He says, “*To him that overcomes*, or literally subdues all the obstacles in his life, *will I give to eat from the tree of life*”. What is the tree of life? It’s the Christ. So I can partake of His life (I can eat from His lifestyle) and if I eat something, even the natural mind tells you, “You are what you eat”. Well we are not speaking of physical now are we? But if my Spirit partakes of the Christ then what do I become? The Christ. IS THAT HARD? But so many people have such a struggle with this. I am what I eat, if I eat the Christ, if I partake of Him, I’LL BE LIKE HIM. It is not that difficult, is it? I become Him because I have taken from that tree of life. This really isn’t that hard; I’m telling you it is not that hard. Now back to the verse: “*which is in the midst (or middle) of the paradise of God.*” Now the tree of life He says is in the

midst or the middle of the paradise of God. What is the paradise of God? It is Eden. Eden was just a symbol of the mind of Christ. Where was the tree of life in the Garden of Eden? In the middle of the garden and you are that garden. So where is the tree of life? In your Spirit, in the very midst of you. In the center of you is your Spirit isn't it? So that tree is right in the midst of you. So you don't have to go upon the hill somewhere to eat of the tree do you? Where is it? It's a Spiritual thing inside of you, but you have to take part in it don't you? This isn't hard believe me. Just take of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God, which **YOU** are.

Vs 8 “ *And unto the angel (or the messenger) of the church in Smyrna,*” now Smyrna is literally the word, “myrrh” – the anointing or the fortification, or the perfume of the church of Smyrna. “*These things says the first and the last, which was dead and is alive*”; isn't that a part about what was said about Jesus? It's in chapter one, verse eighteen, “*I am He that lives and was dead and behold I am alive for ever more*”. You see that is just another portion of the description of the Christ identified in the first chapter.

Vs 9 “*I know (or see) your works, and tribulation*”, tribulation is “*thlipsis*” or pressure. “I see your works and the pressures and the poverty that you are under, *but thou are rich and I know (the “I know” shouldn't even be in there) and the blasphemy* (literally it says “I see the blasphemy or the slander” *from them (or the ones that) accuse you that say they are Jews and are not but are of the synagogue of Satan.*” The word Satan means, “the accuser”. So He says, “I see those that accuse that say they are Jews and are not, but what are they? They are of the synagogue of whom? Satan. What is the synagogue of Satan? The mind of humanity, the carnal mind. Your mind is the only thing that accuses you. Did you know that? When you put that carnal mind aside no one will ever accuse you again. Do you know why? Because it is external. It is external. The INTERNAL is the thing that accuses you. Your mind is the thing that beats you up and tells you that you are no good. It tells you that you have failed. You couldn't possibly qualify to be a Son of God, but you already are. You don't have to become anything, **YOU ARE**. He said, “*To those that He foreknew, He did predestine conformed, to the image of His Son.*” Romans 8:29. You have to get the mind right. It is all about your mind. It is not about your physical body. It is not about the things you eat, and do, and wear. It is about your mind. If your mind is right everything else has to come in order. Isn't your mind that which controls everything you do? If your mind is thinking all these things are okay, that are evil and wicked, you will do them. As soon as your mind changes, you won't be able to do them anymore will you? That is repenting. Your mind changed and you can't see it as being right any longer. So it is very simple, when the mind changes everything else does.

Vs 10 “*Fear none (or nothing) of those things (of those things, shouldn't even be in this verse) which you shall suffer (or of a necessity must suffer).*” “*Fear none of the things which of necessity you must suffer.*” Acts 14: 22 says, “*We must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God.*” **Much tribulation**. The word is “pressure” it is the Greek word “*thlipsis*”, and in Acts it is the same word. Through much pressure we enter into the Kingdom of God. “*Behold the devil*”, the word devil is the same word it speaks of in the ninth verse. The accuser of the brethren. Now what is that? It is your mind again. You see if we look for an external devil we aren't ever going to change the way we think. You see we keep trying to blame someone out there for all the problems in our life and every problem in my life comes from a condition of my heart. Any problem that I have in my life came from my heart. Now sometimes we can say, “well I'm

walking holy and righteous before God and I just don't deserve anything. I've been living a good Christian life for twenty five years." Do you know what? I guarantee you are deceived in something. Do you know that He will send someone by that will just upset your apple cart and make you so frustrated and get you so mad and you'll say; BUT I'VE BEEN LIVING A GOOD CHRISTIAN LIFE!!!!!! And God will say, "So what, I wanted to show you the deep things in your heart that you didn't even know you had. David used a word (presumptuous). David said, "*Forgive me of my presumptuous sins in my heart Lord*". Presumptuous sins, the ones that are hidden within that I had no clue that I had. I've got them all skimmed over with my righteousness. With MY RIGHTEOUSNESS, not His, and I think I'm good and yet there are things in my heart that need to be dealt with. God is not mad at us because of them. He just wants to reveal them to us, if we will just let Him reveal them. It might even be through an appliance repairman. We want to hear that He is faithful to bless, but He is faithful to bring things out of your heart. He says, I WILL DO IT. He will bring things out that we are not even aware of. That doesn't make you a bad person. It is just things in there that He knows is there and He will shake your cage and He will rattle it and get it out. I don't care who you are. He will get to it and that is what He is good at. Thank Him for it. He is the one that is making you better. These people that come in your course and mess things up, man they are helping you and you just don't see it. They are a blessing from God and you just don't see it. You don't see it when it is going on, but thank God you can look back and see it later.

Back to the verse: "*the devil shall (or must of necessity) cast some of you (or you) into prison, in order that you may be tried*" literally the word "tried" is disciplined. That is why He puts you there. Now this prison He is speaking of is not of four walls and bars on the windows and doors and locks and all that stuff. It is right in your MIND. You see this accuser puts you in prison in your mind. If one of you reading this says you have never been in that prison, please contact me so I can cast that lying devil right out of you, because we have ALL been in that prison. We have been lied to in our mind and locked up in our thought process that we are no good and we are in prison because we are a bad person. It is not speaking of physical things here. It is speaking of spiritual things. We are locked up in our minds and we have to come out of that. He said that you are put in here for a reason. What is the reason? To be tested, to be scrutinized, to be proved, so you can know that you have faults. When Joseph was thrown in prison, nowhere in the scripture does it say that he reviled God or he yelled at God because he got thrown in a pit, sold into slavery, thrown in a prison, falsely accused, it doesn't say one time he rebuked God for it. Does it? Do you know why? He heard God's voice before it ever happened and He said, "Everyone is going to bow to you. You are a Son. You are going to be my Son." When you hear that, then you can see all these things that are going on in your life. All of this going on and being thrown into prison in your mind as something that is shaping you and providing the nutrients that you need in your spiritual life to bring you into maturity of the Son of God and to set you on the throne. You see all those people that are aggravating you are just pushing you right up to the throne. What are you upset with that for that is where you want to go isn't it? You want to get to the throne and then the ones helping you to get to the throne, you want to get mad at them. It doesn't make sense does it? We have got to get our mind right. God help us to understand it. So He says, "*he shall put you into prison in order that you may be disciplined and you shall have tribulation (it's pressure, the same world thlipsis) ten days:*" The number ten speaks of the law. So it is a law. We all have to be put in spiritual prison. Necessity, it is of a necessity. He says, "You must suffer these things." He is telling you that we all have got to go to this place, but it is only for a period of time. We

don't stay in prison for the rest of our lives do we? What is ten days considered to a lifetime? NOTHING. It can be a short time it depends on how we think about it. How much do you receive of that truth? That is what it is about. Find out, what it is about. He said, "for ten days" he is going to put you there. It is a spiritual number, not a literal ten days. "Be thou faithful until death". Didn't Jesus say, "He that endures until the end the same shall be delivered"? "I will give you a" (not "a" crown "the crown", it's the word "ho" it is a definite article "the". There is only one crown of life.

Vs 11 Every time God says this next passage: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches;" Every time He says it, I think there are eight of them in the book of Revelation. Every time He is trying to tell you some deep Spiritual truth. It is no different then in the Old Testament when David would read in the Psalms and say, "Selah". We need to really look at something here. It is a Spiritual thing. In other passages like it is in Genesis, and in other parts of the Old Testament, it would, say, "they lift their eyes and looked afar off". It's the same thing. We are looking into the Spirit realm here. We need to slow down and hear what God is saying, not in the natural, but in the Spiritual. "He that overcomes (or subdues) shall not be hurt of the second death". What is the second death? Let's look at Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." What is the second death? Lets look at another verse. Rev. 20:14 "And death and hell were cast" (into the what?) "lake of fire. This is (what?) the second death." So what is the second death? The lake of fire. So the lake of fire is not going to have any hurt on you. Why? Because you are already being purified. If you have the mind of Christ what do you need any fire for? The first death is right now. I can give it up and let God refine me, right now. But if I wait and let the second death get on me, the lake of fire, it is going to burn me up one way or another. I'm not speaking about a physical thing this is a Spiritual cleansing. It is about being spiritually right. It is not about a literal fire, and I know there are all kinds of teachings that say that this literal lake is there and people are in there being tormented. Well I'm going to tell you if my God was a person that could do what they have told that He does, I would not serve Him. He could go ahead and kill me because I would not serve Him. In this verse fourteen it says, "death and hell", hell is the word "hades" which means "the grave". So it says, "death and the grave (not hell) were cast into the lake of fire." What do you think death is? Romans eight says, "to be carnally minded is death." So the carnal mind, and this is all symbolic, and the grave was thrown where? Into the lake of fire. So symbolically anything that gets thrown in fire gets burned up, or purified, done away with. There is no more death. There is no more carnal mind. In Christ there is no carnal mind and there is no grave (grave is symbolic of death) because there is no death. So He has done away with the carnal mind, which is death. It is all done away with. That is what that passage is telling you. In Christ it is done away with. Everyone wants to make this a literal thing. As long as there are people there are going to be holes dug in the earth and people put in the holes. That is not what I'm speaking about. I am talking about death in us. The carnal mind. God help us to get by all this crazy thinking.

Vs 12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos (the word Pergamos means elevated, fortified, height, that would tell us that this was a church of some pride, they were elevated in themselves, they were in pride), "write; These things said he which has the sharp sword with two edges;" In chapter one He is the one that has the two edged sword in His mouth. It is the word of God. Heb.

4:12 says, “*the word of God is sharper than a two edged sword.*” So it’s referring to the one who has the word of God, and who is that? Jesus, the Christ. It is as much the Christ today as it was the Jesus who walked the face of the earth in the first century. If we are truly Sons of God, we are part of the Christ and we have that same word in our mouth. It is no different. If I am any different and speak any different from the Christ, then I am not right at all. I have to speak exactly what He speaks.

Vs 13 “*I know (or I see) your works, and where you dwell, even (the word “even” shouldn’t be in here) where Satan’s seat is:*” (literally the accusers throne is). Where is the accusers throne? Right between your ears. So if you are dwelling in your mind, and if this church, and he’s speaking of this church of Pergamos, if they are dwelling here (pointing to the head or mind) what are they dwelling in? Humanity, carnality, exultation and pride. That is what he is speaking about. He says, “*and you hold fast my name (or literally you retain my name or my nature), you retain that and you have not denied my faith, even in those days like in which Antipas (or the Father) was my faithful martyr, who was slain.*” So even though there are some things going on, and they are in pride, they still claim the name of God and the faith of God. Now he didn’t say they had it, he said they claimed it. Let me finish this verse: “*who was slain among you, where Satan dwells*”. Do you know what I see here? I see a cross. I see two trees, and this faithful martyr I see as the Christ, the sacrifice. In the midst of the garden how many trees was there? Two, you see one has got to go. One has got to go, and the Christ becomes the sacrifice for the natural man. When Jesus became the martyr, the sacrifice for humanity, He wasn’t being sacrificed for all the Spiritual people was He? He was being sacrificed for the human people, and that is what this is in this verse. They have this faithful martyr, Antipas, which means “like the Father” who was slain. Jesus was the express image of whom? God the Father. So that is what this is speaking about here. God sent Himself in His likeness of His Son to be slain. “*Who was slain where Satan dwells.*” Now where does Satan dwell? In the mind.

Vs 14 “*But I have a few things against you, because you have there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam.*” Balaam was a false teacher. So he’s speaking of people that are in this pride that are false teachers. “*Who taught Balac*”? Balac was a Moabite. What does that tell you? Moabite speaks of flesh or fleshly thinking, the mind. Moab is flesh and he was the son of Lot. He was the incestuous son. He was born out of the desires of the flesh. That is where the word Moab gets the flesh meaning. So he says, “*I have a few things against you because you have them that hold the doctrine of Balaam (the false teaching) and who taught Balac (which is the flesh or the carnal thinking) to cast a stumbling block (or literally a snare) before (or in the face or in the mind) of the sons of Israel.*” Where does the snare go? Now someone isn’t going to trip me up and cause me to fall on my face that is not what he is speaking of. He is talking about me being tripped up in the thought process. Isn’t that what God is speaking of here? Everything is being in our mind. We are going to be tripped up in our minds. “*And he caused the children or sons of Israel to stumble and to eat things sacrificed unto idols and to commit fornication.*” That is the same thing the Nicolaitans did, but see we are speaking about people being taught to be unfaithful. If I tell you “it doesn’t make any difference, you go ahead and do what you want to do, there is no accountability”, what am I doing? I am teaching you to be unfaithful. I would be teaching you to be faithful to yourself. My book says as long as I am married to a man (the woman is married to a man) then she can’t marry another. She would be unfaithful, but guess what, when that one is dead then I am free to marry another. You see my soul is free to marry another because Jesus was the

last Adam. That Adam is dead, he died on the cross. So now I am free to marry another man, and I'm married to the Christ. My soul is married to Christ and I don't have to worry about it anymore. I can be faithful to Him because I have no other man to tempt me. The other man doesn't even exist in my life anymore. He doesn't exist in your life either as soon as you come to that understanding. When you come to that revelation, that man is dead. HE DIED ON THE CROSS-, THE LAST ADAM. You will be a free person. You already are, but at least you will know it in your mind then.

Vs 15 *"So have you also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans;"* This is the same thing we talked about in verse six. They taught them to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality. They were spiritually eating of things that were not of God. They were eating the humanity. Back to the verse now: *"which thing I hate"*, or literally in the same way I hate.

Vs 16 *"Repent (or change the way you think, or change your mind), if not I will come unto you quickly and I will fight against you with the sword of my mouth" .* What is the sword? The word of God. So it says, *"I will fight with you in the word of my mouth."* You see He is not going to come and take a sword and cut your head off, but He will speak the word of God into your heart and it will cut away the flesh in your thinking. That is what God wants to do. He wants to cut away the flesh of our thinking.

Vs 17 *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches; To him that overcomes 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 knows saving he that receives it."* "He that hath an ear". Now I am speaking of something spiritual here. What the Spirit says unto the who? The called out people. Now the ones he is talking to **listen**. LISTEN TO WHAT HE IS SAYING. *"To him that overcomes (or literally subdues the obstacles of his life) will I give to eat of the hidden manna"*. What is manna? It is the word of God. Manna was the bread that came from heaven to feed the Israelites in the desert. It was a type of the word of God. So He said, "I will give you to eat of the hidden word. What do you think you are doing right now? You are eating of the manna that very few people get to eat of. It is a feasting on the word of God and most people do not get to do that. It is the ones that overcome and subdue in their life, they get to eat of this manna. *"And I will give him a white stone"*. What is white? It symbolizes purity and righteousness. The stone, Jesus said, *"I am the rock"*. He said, *"I am that rock that followed them through the desert."* So what righteous stone are we speaking of? He said before *"I'll give you the tree of life"*. What is the difference? It is just another way of saying it. It is just a witness of it. He said, *"I'll give you a white stone (that's Christ) and in that stone (or in that Christ) there is a new what? A new nature,* the Greek word "onoma", it is nature or character. So *"in this name or in this nature and character will be written, which no man knows, except the one that receives it."*

People say, "Well you don't look much like Christ!" "Yeah, but you don't know what's inside of me. You don't know what treasures God has in this vessel." Don't let anyone tell you that you don't look like the Christ, because they don't know what kind of treasures is in the vessel. Don't let anyone tell you that you don't look like the Christ. All you have to do is walk like the Christ. You live the nature and don't worry about what people say. You just live the nature. We can't have a bad nature per say and stay with it. Everyone has a progression to walk through it and grow

up, but as we grow those things will drop off of us. The pressure we walk through will get rid of all that. I guarantee that.

Vs 18 *“And unto the angel (or messenger) of the church of Thyatira write: These things says the Son of God, who has his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass.”* So we are speaking to the messenger of Thyatira. The word Thyatira means, “an odor of affliction”. Odor of affliction, something stinks. It is called “death”. When someone is really sick, can’t you walk into a room and smell it? When you have a person that is sick and dying you can actually smell the death on them. So He is speaking about a church that has a whole lot of dead folk in it. There are a whole lot of people that have not been born again. They may be saved, they may be in right standing with God, but they haven’t been born again, by the word of God. Being saved or water baptized has nothing to do with being born again. You are born again by the word of God, *“an incorruptible seed”* Peter said in I Peter 1:23. Some may ask, what does “saved” mean? Saved is “put in right standing”. *“We are justified by His blood”*, he said in Romans five. We are justified and put in a place where, “NOW” He can deal with us. Humanity has been placed in a place where now God can deal with humanity by that sacrifice that He put forth for all of humanity. He will deal with the first fruit first, and then He will get the rest of them, and He will even have a gleaner to make sure He doesn’t leave any. He will get them all, but in His time HE WILL DO THAT. He says, *“These things says the Son of God who has the eyes,”* what is “eyes”? Eyes can speak of spirits; the seven eyes of God are the seven spirits of God. So he has the Spirit of God. In Revelation chapter five and verse six you can find that passage that speaks about the seven eyes of God being the seven spirits. *“Who has the eyes like unto a flame of fire and his feet (or his lifestyle) like unto fine brass (or purification);”* Remember in Luke 22:61 what happened? These eyes like unto fire looked at someone. A man named Peter. Jesus was on His way to be crucified, He was at Pilate’s being scourged and someone looked at Peter and said, “you are one of them”. He said, “no, no, no, no”, and it said Jesus turned and looked at him. What kind of eyes do you think he saw? Would you like to have those eyes look at you like that? NO - NO - NO. Peter saw those eyes. Oh my. We’ve all seen them at some time. When God begins to deal with our lives and He prophecies into our life just like He prophesied into Peter’s life, *“before the cock crows you will deny me three times”*. God will prophesy in your life and sooner or later you are going to look back at Him and see what He spoke in your life, and then you’re going to feel those eyes that Peter saw. Those eyes of a flame of fire. He says the feet are like unto fine brass this represents a lifestyle that has been purified through the fire.

Vs 19 *“I know (or see) your works, and charity (which is love) and the service, and faith, and your patience, and your works; and the last to be more than the first.”* He said, “Your works is more than your love”. Which is not what it should be. Love is the greatest of all the commandments. So if work exceeds our love then something is wrong with the way we interpret God’s commands.

Vs 20 *“Notwithstanding (or but) I have a few things against you,”* even though all these good things are going on in your life, I’ve got something against you yet, *“because you have permitted that woman Jezebel”*. Jezebel was a woman who ruled her husband Ahab. It’s only speaking about the soulish part of my body (the soul of me or the soul of you) ruling over the Christ that is within us. It’s about the woman in you ruling over the man in you. The man is Christ; the woman is your soul. So if we understand that is what Jezebel is. It is not like many people think. “Well my wife rules my house, she is a Jezebel.” You are the house he is speaking of. If my woman

inside of me rules my Christ in me then I have a Jezebel. It is not speaking of this man and woman thing in the natural. That is what everyone tries to make it into. It is about the woman in me. He says, *“You suffer to permit that woman Jezebel which calls herself a prophetess”*. Notice what he said, she called herself; it didn't say God called her a prophetess. That means that “myself” wants to elevate my woman, my soulish realm. Notice that the soul is speaking here and not the Spirit. The soul was saying that *“it”* was great. *“To teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.”* The same thing again, the same as the Nicolaitans, the same as Balac, the same as Balaam. They are all teaching the people to be unfaithful to God. Notice that all these churches, these are people that are called out. These are people that have a part of the nature of Christ and still they have this humanistic thinking in their mind. That is what it is all about, this humanistic thinking that we have in our mind, we can't get by that because we are all caught up in all the religious works that we are supposed to be doing instead of hearing the truth.

Vs 21 *“And I gave her (the soul) space (time) to repent of her fornication unfaithfulness); and she repented not.* I am not talking about Jezebel, the woman; I am speaking about the soul in man. Every one of us has a woman in us and that woman that soul, wants to take the throne. She wants to rule, but she can't. Do you know what a soul is? If you go to the book of Genesis 2: 7 and 8 it says, *“ God breathed His breath”*, and the word breath is the same as Spirit, *“ and He breathed His Spirit into the dust man and he became a living soul.”* So this person, this living soul, is made up of Spirit and flesh, and this Spirit and flesh man, which every one of us are, always wants to take care of self, always wants to get on top. This is what He is telling us. You see it's a combination, it's a mixture, it's a duality, and a double minded man is unstable IN ALL HIS WAYS. I have got to come out of this thing. I have got to come to the Spirit of this thing and I've got to cast off this fleshly thinking, this mixture, this duality that is in our lives. If we do that guess what? We will have no problem. (Except with the rest of the flesh people). You aren't getting out of nothing. You can get rid of what your problem is, but the people will still be there hounding you.

Vs 22 *“Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation (pressure)”*. God said, “I'm going to put them all in there and they are going to get messed up together.” *“Except (or unless) they repent of their deeds”* (or change the way they think about what they are doing). You see until they change their mind He says, “I'm going to put them all together and let them go”. He didn't say He was going to stop them did He? He said, “I'm going to put them in great pressure, turn them loose, let them commit fornication, let them be unfaithful until they change their minds.” Leave them alone. God is not trying to stop them is He?

Vs 23 *“And I will kill her children with death;”* What is He saying? People say that God is going to go around killing babies. Give me a break. God is going to kill the soulish woman, the soulish children, and the offspring of my mind, not my babies that I have brought to this earth, but the things that come forth out of my soul. Things that I have brought out of my soulish thinking, He is going to slay all of them. He is going to slay all of those thoughts out of our minds. In the verse it says, *“in death”* carnality. Death is what? Carnally minded. So He is going to let them have that carnal mind. What will it do to them? It will slay them won't it? It will kill them. It will bring them life in the end, but it will kill them for a season. *“And all the churches (ecclesia) shall know that I am the one that searches the heart and the minds: and I will give to everyone according to your works.* In Matthew 16:27 Jesus said, *“behold I come quickly and I bring my reward to give*

to everyone according to his works” and in Rev. 22: 12 He says the same thing, “*behold I come quickly and my rewards are with me to give to everyone according to their works.*” Whether they are good or bad that is the way He will deal with it.

Vs 24 “*But to you I say, unto the rest (or the remaining ones) in Thyatira, (which means odor of affliction). So He is saying, the rest of you that are lying around in a bunch of stink, (and flesh stinks don’t it? “As many of you have not this doctrine, and which have not know the depths of Satan,”* It’s not speaking of a devil with a pitchfork and horns and a long red pointy tail and a flannel suit. It is referring to the depths of humanity. I am not interested in knowing the depths of my humanity. I am interested in knowing the depths of Christ. Too many people today are so interested in the depths of their own souls. I am not interested in that. I am interested in knowing the depths of Christ. Today the church is very humanistic. They teach humanistic thoughts. Know yourself. Put yourself on the throne. Sorry! That’s the ones that He says if you have this doctrine, “*And if you know the depths Satan, (or the accuser), as they speak I will put upon you none other burden.*” If you don’t go into those realms of that and you go after the Christ, He says even though you’ve got some of these other problems, I am not going to put any other burden upon you. I’ve got to trust Him.

Vs 25 “*But that which you have already, (the word already should not be in this verse) hold fast till I come*” the word “come” is *arrive*. The Greek word for “come” is *heko (hay-ko)* it means, “arrive”.

Vs 26 “*And he that overcomes (or subdues), and keeps my works unto the end*” literally it’s meaning is “according to the pattern”. The language says, “according to the pattern”. It means no flexibility. NO COMPROMISE. If I’ve got to keep it according to the pattern, how could I change anything? Could I? If I do I’m leaving from what God told me to do. I have got to stay according to the pattern. You know Jesus said, “*Whatever the Father says, that is what I say. Whatever the Father does, that is what I do.*” That is what he is speaking of here. We can’t change the pattern. Everyone today is so interested in getting numbers and money all they want to do is say whatever it takes to get you in, I’ll do anything just to get you in here. That is not what it is about. It’s about not being flexible from the pattern God has given us. He told Moses when he made the tabernacle, when He gave a pattern in the mount. He said, “*see that you do it exactly as I gave it to you.*” If Moses had flexed, compromised or deviated from that pattern what would we have had today? A mess. Paul says it in the New Testament, “*I have not shunned to declare the whole gospel unto you.*” So if he hadn’t given us the whole picture then he deviated from the pattern. Then we would have a problem. Right? “*To him will I give power over the nations.*” I’ll give you some scripture for this; I’m not going to go into this. Matt. 24:13 “*he that endures to the end, the same shall be saved (delivered)*”, Mk 13:13, Mt 10:22, and Heb 3:6, 14 “*that he will give you power over the nations.*” I suggest that you look these up.

Vs 27 “*And he shall rule them with a rod of iron;*” What is a rod of iron? Iron is inflexible, no compromise again. When you rule you only rule in what God says. No compromise in what He says. If God says it what do we have to do? You do what He says. If I change it one iota, what have I done? I’ve compromised. Now I am not speaking of the letter of the word, but I’m speaking about the Spirit of the word. I cannot compromise the Spirit of this word. I have to say what God gives me to say. I do not have a choice about it. If someone likes it, that’s great. If they don’t like it that’s great too, because that’s that sword that He will cut away the flesh with, the word of God.

You see that's great it is doing its job. Whatever it is doing it goes forth and *it will not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish the thing that I have sent it there to do*. So if He sent it through this vessel, or your vessel, or anyone else's vessel, if it is the word of God it will accomplish what it was sent to do. "*As the vessels of a potter shall they be broken*" a potter is one that works in clay, as a pot of clay really, not a potter, but as a pot of clay shall be broken or completely crushed, "*even as I received from my Father.*" Don't you think, like I said previously, that God is going to raise you up to be the sacrifice? He raised Jesus to maturity for one reason, to be a sacrifice for humanity. In that process He had to be completely broken, beaten and bruised. Come on that is the rest of it. That is the rest of the story that the rest of them doesn't want to tell you. You are going to be beaten, broken and bruised. You are going to be completely subdued in your natural way of thinking and doing things. Whether you like it or not, God is going to take it. He is going to remove the carnality out of every one of us, and He is not asking us for our opinion. He said He is going to do it. He's taking the first fruit now and He'll get the rest. Every man in his own order.

Vs 28 "*And I will give him the morning star.*" Do you know what the morning star is? It is the Christ. Jesus said, "*I am the morning star.*" You can see that in Rev. 22:16, and in II Peter 1:19. It says that Jesus is the morning star. Then He comes back again and says.

Vs 29 "*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches.*  
**Selah.**