

5-Point Study Sheet for Understanding the Seven Churches of Revelation 2 and 3
 Pastor Daniel: *Revelation Series #4*

1. Each church is considered a light (lampstand), and this means . . . what? (1:12,20)
2. These 7 churches are real, literal, local, and historical (viewed in their setting)
 - Not a description of the chronology of church history (7 = completion?)
 - *Strong imagery* is used by John – to make a point; but, not necessarily an all-encompassing theological assertion (2:5, 9, 10, 27; 3:5, 20)
3. Christ is seen “walking among the lampstands” signifying . . . what? (1:13; 2:1)
4. Each letter is structured after a common order (not all messages have all 7 items)
 - (1) *Church* (City and Angel – Note: angel always means “angel” in Revelation)
 - (2) *Christ* (Authority declarations and/or descriptions)
 - (3) *Commendation* (The 7 “I know” explanations *usually* fit here)
 - (4) *Criticism* (Christ’s analysis of the church’s problems)
 - (5) *Counsel* (Christ’s specific guidance for the church – spiritual purity is the core issue)
 - (6) *Conquer-motif* (Overcoming language usually has a promise attached to it)
 - (7) *Comment from the Spirit* (What is the Spirit saying in each message to all churches?)

5. There are 3 important observations Christ makes in these 7 messages
 - (1) Tribulation and Trial expectations for the church (*note significance of 1:9*)

	<u>Tribulation/Trial expectation</u>	<u>None</u>
Ephesus		X
Smyrna	2:10	
Pergamos	2:13	
Thyatira	2:22	
Sardis		X
Philadephia	3:10	
Laodicea		X

- (2) Judgment warnings to the church

	<u>Immediate</u>	<u>Eschatological</u>	<u>Repent</u>	<u>None</u>
Ephesus	2:5		2:5	
Smyrna				X
Pergamos	2:16		2:16	
Thyatira	2:21-23		2:21	
Sardis	3:3		3:3	
Philadephia				X
Laodicea	3:19		3:19	

- (3) Jesus’ coming statements to the church

	<u>Threat</u>	<u>Eschatological</u>	<u>Relational</u>	<u>None</u>
Ephesus	2:5			
Smyrna				X
Pergamos	2:16			
Thyatira		2:25		
Sardis	3:3			
Philadephia		3:11		
Laodicea			3:20	