

"LEAVING THE SEVENTH CHURCH"

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IN THE LAST BOOK OF THE BIBLE, THE RISEN CHRIST CALLS HIS CHURCH TO INTIMACY.

Rev. 19:6-8 *"Praise the LORD! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear."* (NLT)

CHRIST WANTS HIS CHURCH TO BE PREPARED FOR THE WEDDING.

Rev. 1:1-4 *This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place . . . This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.* (NLT)

CHRIST WANTS HIS CHURCH TO REALIZE ITS CONDITION.

LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

1. To the Church in Ephesus: (Rev. 2:1-7)

Image of Christ: *"One who holds the seven stars and who walks among the seven gold lampstands"*
Commendation: *"Hard work and patient endurance; did not tolerate evil people; patiently suffered for me without quitting"*
Reproof: *"You don't love me or each other as you did at first!"*
Counsel: *"Turn back to me and do the works you did at first."*
Promise: *"I will give you fruit from the tree of life."*

2. To the Church in Smyrna: (Rev. 2:8-11)

Image of Christ: *"The First and the Last, who was dead but is now alive"*
Commendation: *"I know about your suffering and your poverty – but you are rich!"*
Reproof: None
Counsel: *"Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer."*
Promise: *"I will give you the crown of life."*

3. To the Church in Pergamum: (Rev. 2:12-17)

Image of Christ: *"The one with the sharp two-edged sword"*
Commendation: *"You have remained loyal to me. You refused to deny me."*
Reproof: *"You tolerate some among you with false teaching."*
Counsel: *"Repent of your sin."*
Promise: *"I will give you manna, a white stone, and a new name."*

4. To the Church in Thyatira: (Rev. 2:18-28)

Image of Christ: *"The Son of God, whose eyes are like flames of fire, whose feet are like polished bronze"*
Commendation: *"Your love, your faith, your service, and your patient endurance."*
Reproof: *"You permit a false prophet (Jezebel) to teach you."*
Counsel: *"Hold tightly to what you have until I come."*
Promise: *"I will give you authority over all the nations."*

5. To the Church in Sardis: (Rev. 3:1-6)

Image of Christ: *"The one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars"*
Commendation: None
Reproof: *"You have a reputation for being alive – but you are dead."*
Counsel: *"Wake up! Strengthen what little remains. Repent and turn to me again."*
Promise: *"You will be clothed in white. I will never erase your names from the Book of Life."*

6. To the Church in Philadelphia: (Rev. 3:7-13)

Image of Christ: *"The one who is holy and true, the one who has the key of David. What he opens, no one can close; and what he closes, no one can open."*
Commendation: *"You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me."*
Reproof: None
Counsel: *"Hold on to what you have."*
Promise: *"You will become pillars in the Temple of my God. And I will write on you the name of my God, and you will be citizens in the city of my God. And I will also write on them my new name."*

7. To the Church in Laodicea: (Rev. 3:14-22)

Image of Christ: *"The Amen – the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's new creation"*
Commendation: None
Reproof: *"You are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked."*
Counsel: *"Buy gold from me – gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see."*
"I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference."
"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."
Promise: *"You will sit with me on my throne."*

CHRIST WANTS HIS CHURCH TO LEAVE THE LAODICEAN CONDITION SO IT CAN BECOME HIS GLORIOUS BRIDE.

Rev. 3:22 *"Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches."* (NLT)

Eph. 5:27 *He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.* (NLT)

WE ARE INVITED TO CHRIST'S WEDDING FEAST AS THE BRIDE.

Rev. 22:17 *The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let anyone who hears this say, "Come." Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.* (NLT)