

Weekly Study Guide | 10/6/24

Revelation – Chapters 2 and 3

“The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.” -Revelation 1:20-2:1

Message to the Churches

- I know your works/deeds (vs. 2:2, 2:19, 3:1, 3:8, 3:15)
- I know your perseverance (vs. 2:2-3, 2:19)
- I know your afflictions (vs. 2:9)
- I know where you live (vs. 2:13)
- I have this against you (vs. 2:4, 2:14, 2:20)
- Repent (vs. 2:5, 2:16, 2:21-22, 3:3, 3:19)
- Be faithful and endure patiently (vs. 2:10, 3:10)

Five of the churches were called to repent. Two are called to persevere.

All: “Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.(Verses 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29; 3:6, 3:13, 3:22)

All: “To the one who is victorious...” (Verses 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12, 3:21)

There is a reward for “those who overcome.”

Bible References: [Genesis 3:8](#); [John 15:1-2](#); [Exodus 25:31-40](#); [Zechariah 4:2-3](#); [Hebrews 9:2](#); [Matthew 5:14-16](#); [Matthew 25:1-13](#)

Questions:

1. What do you think the imagery of Jesus walking among the lampstands represents? Does it remind you of anything?
2. What do the verses say the lampstands are? What about the stars? What is the purpose of a lampstand? What is the main message to the churches?
3. Of the statements in the list above in the message to the churches, which ones impact you the most? Why? Take a moment for each person to share their answer.

4. What do you think the Spirit is saying to the Church today? Using the statements in the list above, is there a specific message for us today? The church in America? The church in our valley? For example, would God call us to repent or to persevere?
5. What does it mean to overcome and be victorious?
6. Share a few takeaways from this lesson. What is a practical way you can apply this to your life? How can it help strengthen your relationship with God? What difference will this make to your outlook of the future?

For later: What about you? Prayerfully consider how this lesson relates to you. What is a practical way you can apply this to your life? How can it help strengthen your relationship with God? What difference will this make in your life? Is there anything you need to change in light of this lesson?

Summary: Read Revelation 2:1, Genesis 3:8, and John 15:1-2. God walks with us and desires a relationship with us. This also means He has permission to inspect our lives to see if anything needs correction. In the Old Testament, the seven lamps illuminated the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:31-40). In the book of Revelation, the seven lamps are the churches. Jesus said we are the light of the world.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” -Matthew 5:14-16

While each of us is to be light, it is all of us collectively as His church that is the lamp of the community in which we live. The church is a guardian of its culture. We are called to be salt and light in our communities, but we lose our influence if we don't tend to our lives. We overcome by keeping our lamps full of the Holy Spirit and living holy lives pleasing to the Lord.