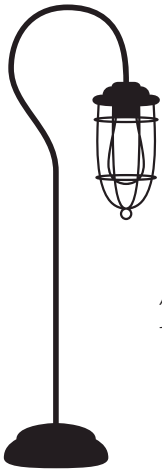


Study 7



Dear Church

The Letter to the Seven Churches

REVELATION 1-3

To finish off our Dear Church series, we're going to depart from the set bible study plan and do things a bit different. Let's think about the message to all seven churches and take some time to be real and honest about ourselves and as a church. To each of the churches, Jesus has said, '*Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches*'. To listen to Jesus and the Holy Spirit, is not just to physically hear – but in the light of Jesus who loves us (Revelation 3:9; 19), it is to receive His comfort and encouragement, but it's also to respond to His rebuke and discipline.

In this last Growth Group study for the term, we're going to take a bit of time to look at each church in turn and do an exercise together. It's going to look like this:

1. Read the particular message to the church from Revelation.
2. Watch the Christ Central video that relates to the church.
3. Read some words from US Pastor Kevin De Young where he offers a picture of a certain type of modern church today, taken from each particular message to the seven churches.
4. Individually and collectively fill in the online survey
5. At the very end, pray together as a group.



The Church of Ephesus *Love*

Read Revelation 2:1-7, then watch the Christ Central Video on YouTube, then read together the description below from Kevin DeYoung.

"Ephesus was your listless, loveless church. They were orthodox, moral, and hard working. But they weren't concerned about the lost and may not have been too concerned about each other. They were doctrinally sound, naval-gazers. To them and to us, Jesus says, "Love.""

Fill in the Online Survey



The Church of Smyrna *Be Faithful*

Read Revelation 2:8-11, then watch the Christ Central Video on YouTube, then read together the description below from Kevin DeYoung.

"Smyrna was your persecuted, Christian-minority church. They were afflicted, slandered, and impoverished. But they were spiritually rich. They were vibrant, but fearful. To them and to us, Jesus says, "Be faithful.""

Fill in the Online Survey



The Church of Pergamum *Discern*

Read Revelation 2:12-17, then watch the Christ Central Video on YouTube, then read together the description below from Kevin DeYoung.

"Pergamum was your ungrounded, youth-infused church. They were faithful, passionate witnesses. But they had compromised with the world and accommodated to their sexually immoral and idolatrous culture. They were missional, but misguided. To them and to us, Jesus says, "Discern."

Fill in the Online Survey



The Church of Thyatira *Think*

Read Revelation 2:18-29, then watch the Christ Central Video on YouTube, then read together the description below from Kevin DeYoung.

"Thyatira was your warm-hearted, liberal church. They were strong in compassion, service, and perseverance. But they undervalued doctrinal fidelity and moral purity. They were loving, but over-tolerant. To them and to us, Jesus says, "Think."

Fill in the Online Survey



The Church of Sardis *Wake Up*

Read Revelation Revelation 3:1-6, then watch the Christ Central Video on YouTube, then read together the description below from Kevin DeYoung.

"Sardis was your flashy and successful, but ultimately shallow megachurch. They were like your big Bible-belt churches chocked full with nominal Christians. They had a great reputation. But in reality, they were spiritually dead. They were the church of the white-washed tombs. To them and to us, Jesus says, "Wake up."

Fill in the Online Survey



The Church of Philadelphia *Keep Going*

Read Revelation Revelation 3:7-13, then watch the Christ Central Video on YouTube, then read together the description below from Kevin DeYoung.

"Philadelphia was your small suburban church. They felt weak and unimpressive. But they had kept the word of God and not denied his name. They were a struggling, strong church. To them and to us, Jesus says, "Keep going."

Fill in the Online Survey



The Church of Laodicea *Get Serious*

Read Revelation Revelation 3:14-22, then watch the Christ Central Video on YouTube, then read together the description below from Kevin DeYoung.

"Laodicea was your ritzy, influential church out in the leafy part of town. They thought they had it all together. But they were as spiritually poor as they were materially rich. The church was filled with affluence and apathy. To them and to us, Jesus says, "Get serious."

Fill in the Online Survey

Pray

At the end of each study we've been encouraged to pray for each other and for our church. In this moment when we've gone back to all 7 messages, let's still do the same. Using the three questions/themes below, take time to deliberately pray for each other and our church as Christ Central.

What is it about Jesus we can praise and give thanks for?

.....
.....

What is to be our response to Jesus' warning?

.....
.....

What can we look forward to if we conquer/are victorious?

.....
.....

— *Christ Central* —

WEEKEND AWAY

20

22

QCCC Mapleton

70 Obi Obi Road, Mapleton

**Registrations at Kirkwood Hall
from 5-7:30pm Friday Night 16 September**

What to Bring

- Bible and pen
- Bed linen or bottom sheet and sleeping bag/ pillows (not provided in the cabins)
- Clothes for a range of activities, including swimmers/togs/wetsuit and sneakers/water shoes (it may still be cool at night, warm in the day)
- Towels and toiletries (bring an extra towel for swimming)
- Earplugs (if you think your roommates will be noisy!)
- Torch, to move around at night
- Sunscreen, insect repellent, hat
- High chair/booster/port-a-cot/ mattress protector for children (if needed)
- Gear for fun (board games, tennis racquets, pool toys)
- Marshmallows for the Campfire



We meet in the Eatons Hill School Hall on Sundays but we also have the Petrie property (55 Old Dayboro Road, Petrie) that we've been working on. Thanks to everyone who's been involved in helping over the last few months.

At this working bee we're going to get stuck into the outside grounds to really improve the space for more ministry. We'd love to have your involvement and no skills are required, just a readiness to help and come ready to meet others and have a good time. We'd love to know who's coming, so please register on our website.



Register Here



CHRISTCENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH