

**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH**  
**PASTOR ROBERT R. MCLAUGHLIN**  
**CHRISTIAN SOLDIER PART 94, RAPTURE PART 22.**  
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This past week I had some questions and statements that I had to deal with which was designed by the Lord to trust Him and answer some very important doctrinal questions.

All of us have to deal with the principle of trust so that we can conclude that these questions are for us concerning “trust.”

For example, there are certain questions we must answer.

Such as;

Q = When it comes to trust we need to apply the Word of God and ask the Lord “Why couldn’t Jonah trust the ocean when he was thrown overboard?”

A. Because he knew there was something fishy about it.

Q. Where was Solomon’s temple located?

A. On the side of his head.

Q. Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

A. When Joseph served in Pharaoh’s court.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why they no longer lived in Eden?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. What did Adam say to the woman the day before Christmas?

A. It's Christmas, Eve!

Q. How does Moses make his coffee?

A. Hebrews it.

Q. Who was the fastest runner in the race?

A. Adam, because he was first in the human race.

Q. What animal did Noah not trust?

A. The Cheetah.

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. Which Bible character had no parents?

A. Joshua, son of Nun (Joshua 1:1).

Q. Where is the first baseball game in the Bible?

A. In the "big inning" Eve stole first, Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel. The Giants and the Angels were rained out.

That one is really good; PRO 17:22.

We have now come to the end of our doctrine of the Rapture which is;

### **Y Point 15. The Rapture and the Big Genuflex and conclusion.**

And with this in mind we are now noting verse by verse from our main passage in REV 1 which describes the reasons why we will bow down before Him when we see Him and all His glory.

REV 1:7 expresses the fact that Jesus Christ is the key to prophecy so the next verse expresses the doctrine that Jesus Christ is the key to history.

REV 1:7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen.

In REV 1:8, Jesus Christ is the key to history and the principle of Omega glory: the issue is do you accept it or reject it?

REV 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

The "**Alpha glory**" of our Lord Jesus Christ is related to the fact that Jesus Christ is God, coequal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

The "**Alpha glory**" of Jesus Christ is related to Who and what Jesus Christ is from eternity past in His divine essence plus the fact that Jesus Christ existed before the foundation of the world in eternity past; EPH 1:4.

On the other hand;

The omega glory of Jesus Christ speaks of Him entering human history at the virgin birth resulting in the hypostatic union and becomes the key to history for us as a nation *collectively* and your destiny *individually*.

So,

When Jesus Christ says, “I am the Alpha” He is referring to the fact of His deity.

Our next verse from our main passage on the Rapture and the Big Genuflex from our main passage of REV 1:7-20 is verse 9.

REV 1:9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos, because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

In verse 9, the human author of the book of Revelation was;

The apostle John who was functioning as a believer priest inside the PPOG, as a one-person congregation, on a Sunday morning in AD 96, on the island of Patmos.

It was time for John to write.

The closing book of the New Testament must demonstrate everything that would happen in history by way of trends from the time of John to the end of the Church-age which is the time of historical trends.

This was to give believers in the Church-age [not the Tribulation] an understanding of what would happen in history after the Church was removed, and how to relate it to their lives now.

This is how to grow spiritually from understanding both the historical trends and the signs of the times beginning in REV 6 and going all the way to REV 19.

Our passage says again;

REV 1:9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos, because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Out of John's pressures and persecutions from evil rulers comes blessing for him.

But not only blessing for John in isolation but blessing for believers in every generation for the rest of history.

For John was isolated under the principle of cursing turned to blessing.

God the Holy Spirit inspired John to present to us the history of the world from his time to the end of the world and to present it in such an understanding way and it has great application to us.

Out of John's pressure comes blessing and for countless generations of the Royal Family of God who have benefited from the study of REV 1.

As a believer priest at the time of verse 9, John was engaged in worship of our Lord Jesus Christ when this one-man service was interrupted by the sudden appearance of our Lord Himself.

They tried to kill the apostle John many times but they failed, so they tried to boil him in oil but the Lord was his wall of fire and protected him so they finally dropped him on the island of Patmos.

We must also remember that John did not neglect worship when alone.

For if ever you need Bible doctrine and its application, it is when you are alone, for what you are when you are alone determines everything else.

That's who you really are.

If I were to give you the corrected translation of verse 9 it would sound something like this;

REV 1:9 "I John, your fellow believer and partner in the pressures, and the kingdom, and the perseverance [persistence in the PPOG] of Jesus, came to be on the island, the one being called Patmos, because of the word of God and the testimony concerning Jesus."

The next verse is where we pick it up:

REV 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet,

The Lord's Day is on Sunday according to the 1CO 16:2.

In REV 1:10, John writes, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet,

This was the voice of our Lord teaching the apostle Paul through the ministry of God the Holy Spirit, what was about to come in the future for the Church.

First of all, let's notice some principles in this verse concerning the importance of the word voice.

Principles:

**1. (Y- all points) Since a “voice” is not visible to the eye, it identifies with a person who has a message and therefore even with our Lord Jesus Christ, it is still the importance of the message that counts.**

**2. John refers to the person who owns the “voice” and he is going to see a form which he will associate with that “voice.”**

And that association is found chapters two and three of the book of Revelation.

The voice is seen and heard from time to time throughout the rest of Revelation.

So, what is coming up, the form identified with that voice, is the key to interpretation of Revelation for it is the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Therefore;

**3. The “voice” demands attention, concentration, objectivity, poise, and good manners, everything necessary for good academic discipline.**

On the Island of Patmos, it was a time when the apostle John began writing world history as it would occur sequentially down to the end of time.

Being filled with the Spirit, John fulfils his job.

He fulfils it under the principle of worship,

For there is resultant worship as John meets with himself on a Sunday morning on the Island of Patmos.

Worship is the function of the PPOG (protocol – rules not plan) and there is no legitimate worship in Christianity apart from residence and function inside the (predesigned plan) PPOG.

And;

When John writes that he was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, the original language says that it refers to the day *belonging* to the Lord.

Sunday is designated as the worship day for the Royal Family in the Church-age because it was the day of our Lord's resurrection.

The "Lord's Day" not only commemorates the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ but is a "*new day*" marking a "new dispensation."

The Sabbath or Saturday was designated the day of worship for Israel but never for the Church or the Royal Family of God. Col 2:16-17; the Epistle to the Galatians.

The Sabbath is for the Jews not for Gentiles or anyone who is not Jewish

Worship on Sunday is the privilege of the believer and, as such, must reflect his freewill option.

And, I don't care who you are or how much you may become angry at what I am about to say but;

You can tell where a lot of believers are spiritually by whether or not they have a day devoted to the Lord.

I do not mean the entire day.

What I mean is that;

You should have a day where you are willing to make a sacrifice at times to gather together with the people of God, whether it is “face-to-face” or non “face-to-face.”

The apostle Paul put it like this;

ROM 14:4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

- ROM 14:5 One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind.

- ROM 14:6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

- ROM 14:7 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;

- ROM 14:8 for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

The apostle Paul also told us that Sunday, the first day of the week, is the Lord's day; 1CO 16:1-2.

1CO 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1CO 16:2 On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.

What is your attitude toward having a day where you are faithful to set aside it for the Lord?

The Day of Pentecost occurred on Sunday and therefore commemorates the day the Church began.

Sunday, the Lord's day, is a reminder that the Church-age is a dispensation of privilege for believers who are the Royal Family of God.

For many, it is a time for sacrifice in that they must get ready to go to service or to travel and for others who work hard all week or are bed-ridden and it is a sacrifice for them to even get up at times....but they do.

Why?

Because;

They believe that their body is the Temple belonging to God and not to themselves any longer; 1CO 16:19-20.

1CO 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

1CO 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Christians are known for their attitude toward Sundays.

So, in verse 10, we read;

REV 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet,

The trumpet was also used in the ancient world for issuing commands in the military.

The trumpet therefore demanded concentration, obedience, execution of commands.

Concentration under the ministry of the Holy Spirit is necessary for perception of the protocol plan of God (PPOG).

Understanding the rules not the plan.

Remember once again;

The PPOG refers to the predesigned ***“plan”*** of God while the other PPOG refers to the ***“protocol”*** plan of God – one emphasizes the plan the other emphasizes the rules.

Now then:

John’s service was interrupted to provide the apostle John with both the ***“historical trends”*** of the Church-age and the ***“prophetical pattern”*** of what will happen after the resurrection of the Church.

The trumpet is the alert signal that the trends are about to begin.

Therefore, look at the next verse in REV 1 which is verse 11 where the voice that John heard from our Lord was in;

REV 1:11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

Now;

In verse 11, we have the divine mandate for the writing and distribution of the book of Revelation.

For up until the time;

John was banished by the evil religious rulers to the Island of Patmos when John was a face-to-face pastor with the congregation in Ephesus and a non-face to face pastor with the other six churches mentioned in this verse.

By the way, speaking of the Church of Ephesus, the Rapture is the fitting end of our series on the Christian soldier and I have decided that our next study which is the entire book of Ephesians verse by verse. (More to come).

Now;

John is going to send this book back to Ephesus, and furthermore, being an apostle, he also had the gift to pastor more than one church and John was a pastor of all seven of those churches until he went to Patmos.

All the apostles could function also as pastors of more than one church.

But;

There are going to be pastors of all seven of those churches in the future and John is to write to those seven churches,

Because, as we have noted in the past under typology;

As believers, we all fit into some of the characteristics of one of those churches.

Again, in REV 1:11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

How do these churches fit into a prophetic book?

John is writing to the ministers of those churches with instructions.

Throughout the history of the church, there have been different types of churches.

All seven of those mentioned in this verse 11 speak of the type of churches that a believer fits into.

In other words,

Are you a Philadelphia believer who is hot or a Laodicean believer who is lukewarm?

Which one are you?

Which church would you be comfortable in?

Which one would you fit into?

Basically,

All churches, even today, fall into one of seven different categories, with some combination of the characteristics found in others,

But one thing is for sure;

Each of those seven types that existed in John's day, in typology in our day, we fit into one of the different churches described about each one of those Churches.

You say;

"Why did He select those seven when there were other churches in that world that he could have selected?"

Those seven churches exactly represent the seven different types of believers.

The same seven types exist today.

Although every individual in a church is different, churches still fall into categories that make them different from other churches.

You can go to one church that is totally different than another church.

It is the mixture of people who make them different, but they still seem to fit into one of those seven categories.

For example;

If a majority of the members running the church are Ephesian-type people, then the church will be an Ephesian-type church.

If most of the people are Laodicean-type people, then the church will be a Laodicean-type church.

Whoever rules the church will determine what type it will be.

John portrays the different types of churches in Revelation 2-3, and he begins with'

## **1. The Church at Ephesus.**

REV 2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

Now, right away we have problems with the translation.

The word angel is angeloo and it means messenger, not angel, and therefore it refers to the pastor-teacher who is to communicate these things.

REV 2:2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;

REV 2:3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

REV 2:4 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

The church at Ephesus had fallen out of love with TLJC.

The warmth was gone.

The fire and flame had waned.

Here was a church that was doctrinally correct, but was cold.

Are you?

Do you fit into being an Ephesus type of believer?

You can be right theologically, but if you have lost your first love for Jesus Christ, then your theology is nothing but cold academics.

It is the beautiful combination of sound doctrine and love for Christ that makes a church what it should be; 2Co 5:14.

The Ephesian church represents the church that is doctrinally pure, yet cold.

It had lost its first love because the people willingly walked away from it --- just like many have throughout the years walked away from us, they got tired of doctrine.

If they leave to go to another doctrinal church, I understand but we have seen that most of those who have left are going no absolutely nowhere at all.

And, by the way,

For those who are following a pastor who has gone home to be with the Lord, and you justify following a dead teacher, then why don't you study from the apostle Paul, because he has gone home to be with the Lord also.

You might as well just follow Jesus and no one else because He is in Heaven just like the others are.

As you can see,

You need someone *alive* today to teach you what the Spirit is saying to the churches in these last days.

It's always the message and not the man.

The next church is;

## **2. The Church at Smyrna.**

The church at Smyrna represents the suffering, persecuted church.

REV 2:8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ¶ The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:

REV 2:9 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.'

REV 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.'

REV 2:11 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.'

You say, "I don't know of any suffering churches."

What about the church in China?

They are suffering.

No one knows how many tens of thousands of Christians have been martyred in Communist China or in different areas of Africa and India and Arab nations.

Even closer to home, missionaries suffer abuse in South America.

Some of the Christians who really love TLJC even suffer abuse in the United States.

Do you fit into that category?

### **3. The Church at Pergamum.**

This is the church that married the world.

REV 2:13 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is;

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Where is Satan's throne?

He is the prince of the world; Eph 2:2.

EPH 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air.

The church that marries the world is characterized by a country club atmosphere with no standards.

It is socially oriented--doing anything for the sake of social preservation.

It is compromising--never taking a true stand.

It lowers its standards to cater to compromising people.

It is more concerned with the fashions of the world than with the things of God.

There are many of those kind of churches with believers existing today.

#### **4. The Church at Thyatira.**

REV 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ¶ The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

REV 2:19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

REV 2:20 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond servants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

That is the sinful church that teaches false doctrine.

Sin and false doctrine always appear together.

Whenever false doctrine enters into a church, sin follows.

For example,

The church at Corinth was subject to false teachers and as a result, sin became widespread throughout the church; 1CO 3:1-3.

The church at Thyatira represents the church characterized by sin and false doctrine.

Where there is a tolerance for false doctrine, theological liberalism begins to creep in and the gospel is watered down.

Everything becomes love and morality and eventually with no integrity, it turns into carnality and love for sin.

That is how Satan brings about sin.

Also, they teach what is known as the Social Gospel

When the social gospel replaces the true gospel, sin becomes widespread because false doctrine removes the doctrine of Christ as taught in the Word of God.

It teaches different doctrines about the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Jesus Christ, His blood atonement, and His second coming.

When the true gospel is watered down by false doctrine and the social gospel, sin is the natural result.

## **5. The Church at Sardis.**

REV 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

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REV 3:2 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

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REV 3:3 'Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.

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REV 3:4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy.

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REV 3:5 'He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.

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REV 3:6 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

At a Sardian-type church, someone cuts the grass, paints the walls, prints the bulletin, and stands in the pulpit, but that church isn't alive; it's dead.

The church at Sardis is the dead church.

How would you fit into that type of church?

I remember a particular church that was experiencing much growth, and the pastor was excited about it.

The church had received the building and property for free and could have had a great impact and testimony but the pastor drove people away.

Today it still exists!

People walk in and out of it, but it's not alive; it's dead.

A dead church is worthless to God.

Would any of you fit into that church, I don't think so!

## **6. The Church at Philadelphia.**

This is a beautiful doctrinal church.

REV 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ¶ He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

- REV 3:8 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

- REV 3:9 'Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews, and are not, but lie behold, I will make them to come and bow down at your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

REV 3:10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.

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REV 3:11 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, in order that no one take your crown.'

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REV 3:12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.'

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REV 3:13 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

In REV 3:8, God has opened a door to the world in this church.

People can go through it to reach the world with the gospel.

This is also a church where TLJC is not denied.

Its strength is in God, who said, "My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2Co 12:9).

This is a faithful, Christ- honoring, zealous, missionary-minded church that is alive with the flame of evangelism and in love with Jesus Christ and His word.

This is the kind of church that brings glory to God.

You say, "Is it the perfect church?"

No.

According to verse 9, they had their problems, too but if ever there was a church that close to perfection, it was the church at Philadelphia.

It shunned evil, sin, false doctrine, and compromise, and it kept its love alive.

How would you fit into that type of Church?

Finally, the seventh Church mentioned in our main passage of Rev 1 is:

## **7. The Church at Laodicea.**

This is the apostate church where Satan dwells.

It is a church that has been influenced as a counterfeit.

REV 3:15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot.'

REV 3:16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.'

This is the church that sickens God.

It is on its way to the sin unto death or hell.

It is a liberal church run by a cult that denies the true gospel.

It is accursed and damned, but will thrive during the Tribulation. With the exception of Smyrna and Philadelphia, all the other churches mentioned progressed from bad to worse.

So,

Not only are there seven types of churches, but there are seven types of church members.

I know that there are some Ephesian-type members in this church.

However, let us remember this statement;

If the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Christian church could grow cold, imagine what could happen to us?

They were much closer to the enthusiasm of the first generation than we are.

I know there are Ephesian members whose love is cooling.

They used to burn with love for Christ, but not anymore.

They have left their first love.

There are also Smyrna-type members in the church who pay for their boldness for Christ by suffering.

They give testimony to Jesus Christ and suffer abuse from people for doing that.

I know of people who are willing to open their mouth to share Jesus Christ no matter how people criticize them or what it might cost them.

I thank God for Smyrna-type members!

Then there is the Pergamum type of believer who is married to the world and the details of life.

There are members in the church today who are married to the world.

They are preoccupied with their money, car, job, fashion, and themselves.

They are concerned about how they relate to the world, but they are making compromises to Satan.

They are **unwilling** to pay the price of a true disciple, so they lower their standards to court the world and discredit the name of Jesus Christ.

They weaken the church and are useless to God.

The church at Thyatira was full of false doctrine and sin and I know there are church members of our church who are living in sin.

You say, "How do you know that?"

Because the Bible says that no church will be without it.

Wherever God sows good seed, Satan is going to sow bad seed.

The people who are living in sin usually justify it with false doctrine or distortion of doctrine like the doctrine of love and the doctrine of privacy, to defend themselves.

Some are courting secret sin--it's hidden from the church, but visible to God.

Some of you think like this statement;

***"If I'm courting secret sin, and nobody knows it, then it doesn't hurt anyone."***

But it does.

The Bible says, "A little leaven leavens the whole lump" (Gal 5:9) and it has an effect upon all believers.

Then there is the Sardis church again who are known to be spiritually dead.

They couldn't get excited about Jesus Christ no matter what happened.

They are in a spiritual stupor--nothing happens in their lives.

Thank God that there are Philadelphia-type members in the church!

The church at Philadelphia had an open door to the world--it was missionary-minded.

It kept sound doctrine and never denied Christ's name.

I believe there is a majority of fruitful and faithful members in our church who would be very comfortable in the church at Philadelphia.

They are in love with Christ and eager to share Him with others.

They are motivated to learn doctrine, the Gospel, being a missionary or supporting missionary work and are zealous to do so.

God forbid, but I believe that;

There are "*Laodicean*" type of believers and unbelievers in every church.

They don't even know Jesus Christ; yet they come to church.

They go through the motions spiritually.

But they are carnal believers or not believers at all.

In the end they will say what Matthew records for us in MAT 7:22-23;

MAT 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'"

MAT 7:23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

They will say "Lord, Lord, it's us, but He is going to say, "I never knew you; depart from Me"

What kind of member are you?

You say, "Can I change what I am?"

***Sure you can!***

Would you like some motivation to change what you are?

You say,

"I'm an Ephesian-type church member because my love has grown cold." REV 2:7.

But.....

The Lord says "***to him that overcometh***" or a believer who wants to a winner will I give them to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

For the Smyrna type believer who says, "I'm suffering and I might not be able to handle the pressure anymore."

REV 2:11 says, "He that overcometh or if you repent and become a winner believer, you shall not be hurt by of the second death."

If you are in Christ, the second death has no power over you, you have eternal life, but that's no reward, that's from "***faith alone in Christ alone.***"

This guarantees you will not be hurt by the second death when people go to the Eternal Lake of Fire or Hell.

Not being hurt by the second death as a reward refers to the fact that no one that you love will ever go into eternal damnation.

That will be your motivation for repentance and reward.

To the Pergamum believer, REV 2:17 says To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

This is your type of motivation, if you fit into that type of church.

For the Thyatiran type of believer Revelation 2:26 says, "**And he that overcometh,** (the winner) and keeps My doctrine and works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations."

For the Sardian type of believer REV 3:5 says, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels."

For the Philadelphian, REV 3:12 says, "To the winner, I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go no more out; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God; and I will write upon him My new name."

For the Laodicean believer even they have a chance.

REV 3:21 says, "To him that overcometh (the winner) will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne."

Our Lord Jesus Christ says again and again;

*"If you will be what I want you to be, I will reward you."*

That is tremendous motivation!

The messages to the seven churches were prophetic because they describe seven types of churches and seven types of believers who make up those churches.

Those members determine what their church will be.

If the control of the church is in the hands of a particular type of member, then it will be that type of church.