

**The Revelation of Jesus Christ**

**Lesson 2**

**The Prophetic History of the Church Age**

John had been the head elder in the church at Ephesus and he ministered to the churches in neighboring towns. John is commanded to write to seven churches in Asia Minor in and around Ephesus. Theologians have always considered the conditions of these churches as typical of all churches for the last 2000 years.

Read Revelation 2 and 3.

1. The selection of the churches (there were hundreds in the area) illustrated conditions common in local churches at that time as well as throughout later history and up to now. Make a *chart* of each of the seven churches in Rev 2-3, listing the three-fold message of Jesus to the churches:

Example:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Commendation</u>	<u>Condemnation</u>	<u>Exhortation</u>
Ephesus	work hard, hate evil, Oppose false teaching	“left their first love”	remember, repent

2. The Church of Ephesus is probably the most representative church of our time. Who had spent considerable time there building up that church (Acts 19:26)? Which of Paul’s disciples was the Pastor at Ephesus (1 Tim 1:3)? Who praised God for the faith and love exhibited by the Ephesian saints around 61 A.D. (Eph 1:1, 15)?
3. What did Christ have “against” the church at Ephesus (2:4) 35 years after Paul commended them for it? What do you think might have replaced their first love (Math 13:22, 1 John 2:15)?
4. Which two churches enjoyed no condemnation (2:8-11, 3:7-13)? What did they have in common which probably kept them pure (2:9)? Do you think false believers and hypocrites stay long in the face of persecution and pain?

