

Structure of the Seven Letters

	Ephesus, 2:1-7	Smyrna, 2:8-11	Pergamos, 2:12-17	Thyatira, 2:18-29	Sardis, 3:1-6	Philadelphia, 3:7-13	Laodicea, 3:14-22
Command to write	1a	8a	12a	18a	1a	7a	14a
Title from ch. 1	1b	8b	12b	18b	1b	7b	14b
Message	2-6	9-10	13-16	19-25	1c-4	8-11	15-20
I know thy works	2a	9a	13a	19a	1c	8a	15a
Praise	2-3	9b	13	19		8-11	
Exhortation		10				11b	
Criticism	4-5		14-16	20-23	2-3		15-20
Exhortation	5		16		3		18-19
Praise	6			24	4		
Exhortation	5	10	16	25	3	11b	18-19
Promise to Overcomers				26-28	5	12	21
Let him hear	7a	11a	17a	29	6	13	22
Promise to Overcomers	7b	11b	17b				

Closing Praise and Exhortation

24 none other **burden** βάρος
G922

Act 15:28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you **no greater burden** than these necessary things; 29 That ye **abstain from meats offered to idols**, and from blood, and from things strangled, **and from fornication**: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well.

25 But that which ye have already **hold fast** κρατέω
G2903

Rev. 2:13 and **thou holdest fast my name**, and hast not denied my faith,

Promises to Thyatiran Overcomers

26 to him will I give **power** ἐξουσία
G1849 over the nations

Luke 4:5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said unto him, All this **power** will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. 7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

Matt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Rev. 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death **hath no power**, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

27 And he shall **rule** them with a **rod of iron**; as the **vessels of a potter** shall they be **broken to shivers**:

Psa. 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 9 Thou shalt **break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.**

28 And I will give him the **morning star**

Rev 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. **I am** the root and the offspring of David, and **the bright and morning star.**

2 Pet 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, **until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:**

3:1 Sardis



Acropolis of Sardis

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Sardis_\(547_BC\)#/media/File:Sardis_acropolis.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Sardis_(547_BC)#/media/File:Sardis_acropolis.jpg)

Oba 1:20 And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in **Sepharad**, shall possess the cities of the south.

3:1 a name that thou livest, and art dead

Rev 1:18 I became dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore,

Eph 1:22 the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Commands for an Ailing Church

2a Be watchful

Psa. 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Matt. 24:42 **Watch**

therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

1Pet. 5:8 Be sober, **be vigilant (watch)**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

2b strengthen the things which remain, that ~~are ready to die~~ thou wert about to cast out

Ezek 34:4 The diseased have ye not **strengthened**, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was **driven away**, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. ... 16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was **driven away**, and will bind up that which was broken, and will **strengthen** that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

Jer. 23:1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and **scatter** the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. 2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have **scattered** my flock, and **driven them away**, and have not visited them:

Commands for an Ailing Church (cont.)

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard,

Rev. 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen,

Hold fast:

τηρέω G5083,
not κρατέω
G2902 (as in
2:13, 25; 3:11)

Keep, observe
the Lord's words:
1:3; 3:8, 10;
12:17; 14:12;
22:7, 9

and repent (cf. Ephesus (2:5), Pergamos (2:16), Thyatira (2:21, 22), Laodicea (3:19))

Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Luk 24:47 And that **repentance** and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

2 Cor 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to **repentance**: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh **repentance** to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. 11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

More Helpful References

3b **I will come on thee as a thief ...**

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else **I will come unto thee quickly**, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Rev 2:16 Repent; or else **I will come unto thee quickly**, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not **defiled** μολύνω G3435 their garments;

1Cor. 8:7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is **defiled**.

Rev. 14:4 These are they which were not **defiled** with women;