

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				

False and True Riches

17 ... I am rich, and increased with goods

Hos. 12:8 And Ephraim said, **Yet I am become rich**, I have found me out substance: in all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me that were sin.

and have need of nothing

In the same year Laodicea, which had fallen from the illustrious cities of Asia by the earthquake of the earth, recovered without any remedy from us by its own resources. (Tacitus, Ann. 14.27.1)

and knowest not ...

Luk 12:21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me

Isa 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, **buy wine and milk without money and without price.**

The Lord's Travel Stop



1 Pet 1:7 That the trial of your **faith**, being much more precious than of **gold** that perisheth, though it be **tried with fire**, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Jas 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world **rich in faith**, ... ?

Ps 19:8 the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

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17 Thou art the wretched and miserable one:	18 buy from me:	
a) poor	a) gold tried in the fire	Proven faith: 1 Pet 1:7; Jas 2:5
b) blind	c) eyesalve	Scripture: Ps 19:8
c) naked	b) white raiment	Righteousness: Rev 7:14; 19:7

Rev 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in **white robes**? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and **made them white in the blood of the Lamb**.

Rev 19:7 for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and **white**: for the fine linen is **the righteousness [righteous deeds] of saints**.

Revelation 3:17-18

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

your money is no good here, it's already been payed for!

What did Jesus say that their real condition was in verse seventeen in the book of Revelations?



Helpful Parallels to 3:19-21

19 As many as I **love**, I **rebuke** ἐλέγχω G1561 and **chasten** παιδεύω G3811

Prov. 3:11 My son, despise not the **chastening** παιδεία of the LORD; neither be weary of his **correction**

ἐλέγχω: 12 For whom the LORD **loveth** he **correcteth**

παιδεύω; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

be zealous therefore

1Cor. 12:31 But **covet** earnestly the best gifts:

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and **knock**:

Son 5:2 I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that **knocketh**, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night.

Lk 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; 36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and **knocketh**, they may open unto him immediately.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I (ἐγώ emphatic) also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Rev. 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: ... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Repeated Themes

	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Risk of Removal	2:5						3:16
Coming Tribulation		2:10				3:10	
Facing death		2:10	2:13				
Resurrection of Christ		2:8					3:14 < 1:5
Life: tree, crown, book	2:7	2:10, 11			3:5		
Nicolaitans	2:6		2:15				
OT Villains (Balaam, Jezebel)			2:14	2:20			
Idolatry & Fornication			2:14	2:20			
Satan: synagogue, seat, depths		2:9	2:13	2:24		3:9	
Call to repent	2:5		2:16	2:21-22	3:3		3:19
A door						3:8	3:20
Riches and poverty		2:9					3:17
Hold fast (name of Christ)			2:13	2:25		3:11	
Doctrinal faithfulness	2:2		2:13			3:8	
Promise to rule				2:26			3:21
Identification with Christ						3:12	3:21
Crown		2:10				3:11	
Patience	2:2-3			2:19		3:10	

Selected Themes

Tribulation

Smyrna: Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have **tribulation** ten days:

Pergamos: Rev 2:13 Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was **slain** among you,

Philadelphia: Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of **temptation**, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Temptation to Compromise

Pergamos: Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of **Balaam**, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, **to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication**. 15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the **Nicolaitans**, which thing I hate.

Satan

Smyrna: Rev. 2:9 I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the **synagogue of Satan**. (Also 3:9, Philadelphia)

Pergamos: Rev. 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where **Satan's seat** is:

Thyatira: Rev. 2:24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the **depths of Satan**, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.