

**Lesson 1**

“Checking Up on His Churches”

*Revelation 2-3*

Anyone who has been through a performance review knows the mix of emotions that it stirs up. “Are the bosses pleased with my work? Is there anything that I’ve been doing poorly? Could I be promoted? Could I get fired? Is there another reason they’re doing these reviews? Are they about to give me news that will change my life?” Performance reviews are often necessary, yet terrifying, moments of life, and they are vitally important to the health of a company.

In Revelation 2-3, the Risen Jesus gives a performance review, through the Apostle John, to 7 churches in Asia Minor. John was the last surviving Apostle, and Jesus used him to share this important performance review with these churches. Although each message was written for a local congregation, the lessons from this extended to other churches of their day and churches in our world today! How can churches today benefit from Jesus’ evaluation of these 7 churches?

See the Context of these Messages.

* These messages continue Jesus' revelation to John.
* These messages encapsulate the whole book.
	+ They summarize themes of Revelation.
	+ They show the audience of Revelation.
	+ They suggest the applications of Revelation.

Sense the Circumstances of the Churches.

* Jesus spoke to local churches in their situations.
* Jesus spoke to all churches in their situations.

Study the Communications of the Savior.

* The Structure of Jesus’ messages:
	+ A **command** to write: “Write this to the angel of the church in [*city name*].”
	+ A **description** of Jesus: “These are the words of him who [*description of Jesus*].”
	+ A **commendation** of the Church: “I know your [*positive trait*].”
	+ An **accusation** of sin: “But I have this against you [*negative trait*].”
	+ A **command** to respond
	+ An **exhortation** for all churches to listen: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches…”
	+ A **future** **promise** for those who conquer: “To the one who conquers, I will [*promise*].”
* A Summary of Jesus’ messages:

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| Ephesus | You take the right stand, but your love is gone. |
| Smyrna | You faithfully suffer till death, and I will give you life. |
| Pergamum | You are courageous witnesses, but tolerate dangerous teachings. |
| Thyatira | You serve me well, but tolerate idolatry and immorality. |
| Sardis | You look alive, but you’re hypocritical and dead. |
| Philadelphia | You might seem weak, but you thrive with missional opportunities. |
| Laodicea | You’re so worldly that you’re useless; you better repent. |

Spy out the Continuity for Today’s Church.

* We are all susceptible to the sinful trends of our culture.
* The church is the guardian of its culture.
* Christians must endure through difficulty.
* Jesus is intimately involved with His church.
* The church is local and universal.
* Christians should be motivated by what’s coming.

**Prayer**

**Scripture**: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Single Focus/Cross Impact Requests:

* Cross Impact IUPUI, Purdue, and UIndy
* Single Focus
	+ College Students while they’re away
	+ Year-Long atmosphere and discipleship at home
* Sunday Soul-Winning Efforts
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Specific Requests:

* Jack Elms, Kendall Elms, Jesiah Achenbach in military training/service
* Joseph LaPointe’s back and spirit
* Trevor’s need for community at Indiana State
* Jessica’s Unsaved friend in Mormonism
* Zirkles as Ronda goes through cancer treatments
* Xavion’s court situation
* Sarah’s family’s salvation
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**Announcements:**

* September 8- Men’s Bible Study
* September 10- SNF at the Knoedler’s
* Week of 11-15- Top Golf (Tuesday is cheapest)

**Order of Service for tonight:**

**Service Theme**: “Come Boldly”

* **Opening Game**:  “Who Am I?”
* **Announcements**:
	+ Sunday Night Fellowship at the Knoedlers
* **Opener**: Brandon
* **Songs**:
	+ My Jesus, Fair- page 87/ Screen
		- Private Prayer
	+ Christ is Sufficient - Sheet Music / Screen
		- Corporate Praise/ Prayer
	+ Arise, My Soul, Arise - Sheet Music/ Screen
		- Small Group Supplication

**Message**: Pastor Andy