

# **The Ministry of Christ to His Church**

*John MacArthur*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Satan is very hard at work to take control of the church.
- B. We can know the invisible attack of Satan.
- C. Text: Revelation 2-3.
- D. Satan has a five step plan to destroy the church.
- E. The author of Revelation is Jesus.

## II. Ephesus: the loss of first love.

- A. Enthusiasm was gone in the church.
- B. They were orthodox, but they lacked a warm heart.
- C. This is remedied by...
  1. Remembering when one was first called. If you enjoy your service more than Christ and the Word of God, then you have lost your first love.
  2. Repentance.
  3. Returning to first works.

## III. Pergamum: holding the teaching of Balaam and the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

- A. The teaching of Balaam was compromise with the world.
- B. The teaching of the Nicolaitans was engaging in simple pleasures.
- C. Many are willing to compromise because of reputation and many other things.
- D. Idolatry follows.

## IV. Thyatira: they tolerated the woman "Jezebel."

- A. This church tolerated sin.
- B. The minority is the problem, not the majority in these churches.

## V. Sardis: they were content with programs--it was dead.

- A. The church was to remember and repent.
- B. They were to look at the true things.

C. There were only a few names that were faithful in this church.

D. This is the apostate, humanistic church.

VI. Smyrna and Philadelphia: they endured persecution.

A. Persecution tends to be purifying.

B. They knew what it was to live for Christ.

VII. Conclusion.

A. The Lord will play his sovereign part in our lives--we are not alone. (Revelation 1:5)

B. Jesus loves his church.

C. Jesus intercedes for his church.

D. Jesus purifies the church.

E. Jesus gives us a new name and himself.

**Application Questions:**

1. Where do you find yourself in the midst of Satan's attacks?

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2. How would you counsel a friend who is having struggle fostering his or her love for God?

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3. What is Jesus doing in the church right now to guard us against Satan?

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