

Danger Facing the Church—Revelation 2-3

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Revelation 2-3.
- B. Satan endeavors to thwart the work of the church.
- C. Satan's activity is often subtle.
- D. The church stands in the face of imminent danger.
- E. The seven churches of Revelation are real churches but they represent today's churches and people.

II. Churches that do not receive warning.

- A. Churches that are persecution.
- B. Churches that evangelize aggressively.
- C. Persecution and evangelization purify the church.

III. Ephesus.

- A. They were busy and active.
- B. They did not compromise.
- C. They loved righteousness.
- D. They were strong doctrinally.
- E. However, they left their first love.
 - 1. This is the result of years of listening but not applying.
 - 2. Church activity has become routine.

F. Response.

- 1. Remember what it was like when you first loved Jesus.
- 2. Repent of your sin of neglecting Jesus.
- 3. Repeat.

IV. Pergamus.

- A. They resisted the works of Satan.

B. However, they had someone in their fellowship communicating compromise. (Numbers 22)

C. Fellowship with the world is enmity with God. (James 4)

V. Thyatira.

A. This church was generally healthy.

B. However, a woman stood up in authority teaching people that we need to be liberated.

C. This church was tolerating sin.

VI. Sardis.

A. They had a church of reputation.

B. However, they were a dead church that made no contribution. They were all program and no power.

VIII. Laodicea.

A. They were neither cold nor hot. Jesus spits out lukewarm churches.

B. This was an apostate, unsaved church.

Application Questions:

1. Which church do think best pictures the problems of your own church? Explain.

2. Which church best pictures your own struggles?

3. How can you respond differently in both of the situations above? Explain.
