

..... Daily Devotions

Devotions – April 8-14, 2018
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To the Seven Churches (and perhaps ours too)

Besides all of the “end of the world” stuff in the book of Revelation, we also find simple messages to seven churches in Asia. These instructions offer encouragement for their good work and correction for what they have done wrong. All churches (or rather, the whole church) benefit from God’s encouragement and correction, so let us pray faithfully this week about what is offered in these seven messages.

Sunday, April 8 – Ephesus

Text: Revelation 2:1-7

¹“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

²“I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false. ³I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. ⁴But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

Let us pray:

Help your church to patiently endure the challenges presented to us. Let us follow after truth without growing tired. Help us to repent of our sins and return to you and your intentions for us from which we have strayed. Give us life. Give us paradise. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.



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Monday, April 9 – Smyrna

Text: Revelation 2:8-11

⁸“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life:

⁹“I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.

Let us pray.

Oh Lord, you are with us through all our afflictions, from beginning to end. Remain with us and strengthen us as we endure the lies of those who are hostile to you and your church. Help the persecuted church to remain faithful as they proclaim the Gospel under threat of prison and death. Make us faithful in all things and reassure us of the gift of eternal life. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.



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Tuesday, April 10 – Pergamum

Text: Revelation 2:21-17

¹²“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword:

13 “I know where you are living, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you are holding fast to my name, and you did not deny your faith in me^[a] even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan lives. 14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the people of Israel, so that they would eat food sacrificed to idols and practice fornication. 15 So you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Repent then. If not, I will come to you soon and make war against them with the sword of my mouth. 17 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.

Let us pray.

Oh Lord, you are merciful and powerful. Even when we sit in the presence of our enemies and the Evil One himself, you can keep us faithful. Help us to resist the temptations of idolatry and immorality, and spare us the righteous judgment of your sword. Claim us, name us, and feed us. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen



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Wednesday, April 11 – Thyatira

Text: Revelation 2:18-29

18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze: 19 “I know your works—your love, faith, service, and patient endurance. I know that your last works are greater than the first. 20 But I have this against you: you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet and is teaching and beguiling my servants^[b] to practice fornication and to eat food sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her fornication. 22 Beware, I am throwing her on a bed, and those who commit adultery with her I am throwing into great distress, unless they repent of her doings; 23 and I will strike her children dead. And

all the churches will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve. ²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call ‘the deep things of Satan,’ to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden; ²⁵ only hold fast to what you have until I come. ²⁶ To everyone who conquers and continues to do my works to the end,

I will give authority over the nations;

²⁷ to rule^[c] them with an iron rod,

as when clay pots are shattered—

²⁸ even as I also received authority from my Father. To the one who conquers I will also give the morning star. ²⁹ Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Let us pray.

Oh Lord, help the church be better each day, so that you will find us faithful when you come again. Forgive us for the times we have allowed false teachers to guide us into sin. Have mercy on us and return us to your good graces by the blood of Jesus. It is in his name we pray. Amen



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Thursday, April 12 – Sardis

Text: Revelation 3:1-6

3 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars:

“I know your works; you have a name of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. ³ Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. ⁴ Yet you have still a few persons in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the book of life; I will confess your name before

my Father and before his angels. ⁶ Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Let us pray.

Oh Lord, wake us up and get us dressed! We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.



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Friday, April 13 – Philadelphia

Text: Revelation 3:7-13

⁷“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of the holy one, the true one,
who has the key of David,
who opens and no one will shut,
who shuts and no one opens:

⁸“I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but are lying—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Because you have kept my word of patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon; hold fast to what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. ¹² If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. ¹³ Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Let us pray.

Oh Lord, you are the powerful one and we are not. As the song says, we are weak and you are strong. Nevertheless you have opened your home to us and allowed us to thrive

in this world. Keep us patient and strong until you come again. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen



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Saturday, April 14 – Laodicea

Text: Revelation 3:14-22

¹⁴ “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin^[a] of God’s creation:

¹⁵ “I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.’ You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹ I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. ²⁰ Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. ²¹ To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Let us pray.

Oh Lord, we are as you say we are. We are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. We rely on you for all that we need. Feed us. Clothe us. Give us sight. Make us rich. Save us and remain with us always.

We pray this in the name of

Jesus. Amen

