

Jesus Walks Among the Lampstands

The Assault on Comfort Zone
Christianity
Lesson 03

“Now about” (concerning) is absent.

This is replaced with the “I know” formula such as 2:2 – “I know your deeds and toil and perseverance,” etc.

Ephesus – Early church period

Smyrna – Persecution during
patristic period

Pergamum – Time of Constantine

Thyatira – Middle age period

Sardis – Reformation period

Philadelphia – Missionary
outreach during 18th & 19th century.

Laodicea – Modern period,
apostasy leading to Christ's return.



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D. **Ephesus**: Grave danger

C. **Smyrna**: No Complaint.

Danger from synagogue of Satan.

B. **Pergamum**: Mixed situation.

A. **Thyatira**: Mixed situation,
longest sermon by far.

B. **Sardis**: Mixed situation.

C. **Philadelphia**: No Complaint.

Danger from synagogue of Satan.

D. **Laodicea**: Grave danger.

D. Ephesus: Bad

C. Smyrna: Good

B. Pergamum: Ugly

A. Thyatira: Really ugly.
Longest message.

B. Sardis: Ugly

C. Philadelphia: Good

D. Laodicea: Bad



Also note the center message to Thyatira. 2:23b is the center of this sermon:

“and all the churches will know.”

“Traditionally scholars have viewed Revelation as addressing oppressed Christians facing persecution from the mighty Roman state. Today many emphasize instead that the book addressed complacent, spiritually anemic Christians . . . Revelation speaks to churches both alive and dead, but more of the churches are in danger of compromising with the world than dying from it. This makes the (letters) relevant to North American Christianity,”

Craig S. Keener, *Revelation*.

1. The Christ title
2. The commendation
3. The complaint
4. The consequence
 - Negative
 - Positive
5. Continuing significance

1. “The one who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this,” 2:1.
2. The first and the last, who was dead and has come to life, says this, 2:8.
3. The one who has a two-edged sword, says this, 2:12.
4. The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, says this, 2:18.

5. He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, says this, 3:1.
6. He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this, 3:7.
7. The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of creation of God, says this, 3:14.

**Comfort zone Christianity is
comfortable with the world.**

Doctrine

*Justification means that we
become acceptable to God by
the work of the Holy Spirit and
made righteous over time.*

*We are saved by grace
after all we can do.*

*More than anything, Jesus
is a great moral example
and shows us how to live.*

*There is none who understands,
there is none who seeks God,
there is no fear of God before
their eyes.*

The message of the gospel is not primarily about historical information, but rather about experiencing God today.

“My argument . . . is not that
Evangelicalism is becoming
theologically liberal but that it is
becoming theologically vacuous.”

-- Michael Horton

Immorality

Living for Self

Mark 8:34-38

“³⁴ And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ³⁵ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.’”