

Revelation: Lesson 3 part 1.

Allow me to recap what we did this past week in Revelation Lesson 3 (chapters 2-3). We got about as far as I was hoping we would get. We accomplished about 2/3rds of the lesson.

The seven churches are individual congregations in Asia Minor (western Turkey) that John addresses. These 7 churches each face their own challenges so the message from Jesus to them via John is a little different in each case. But make no mistake, the book of Revelation is a message for these seven congregations and certainly the church at large. So the imagery, the message, and application or meaning that we draw from the rest of the book relate back to these 7 letters.

First: I went through historical information regarding each of the seven churches that John addresses. Some of this information may relate directly to the text, some of it was just for fun. You can see the workbook for this information.

Second: I had the class break up into groups and they were assigned a particular letter to work through. What they had to pull out from their letter was

1. How does Jesus refer to himself?
2. What positive things does Jesus say about the church?
3. What negatives does he mention about the church?
4. In light of this, what command is given to them?
5. If they disobey the command, what will happen?
6. If they obey the command, what will happen?

Then we reconvened to share our results with the class.

Since we did not get to much of the interpretive issues of the seven letters and dealt more with straight facts I'm going to hold off on presenting you with the application. We will cover this next week.