

Ephesus: the church that lost its first love

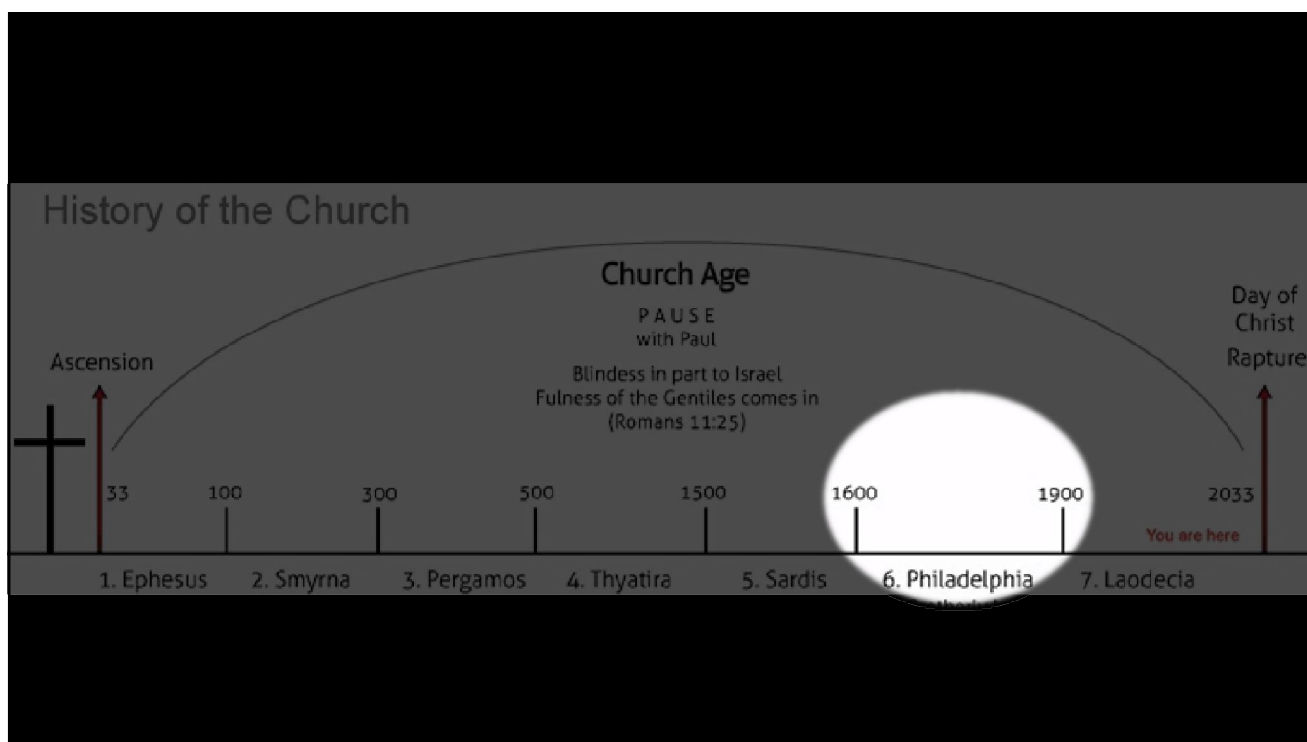
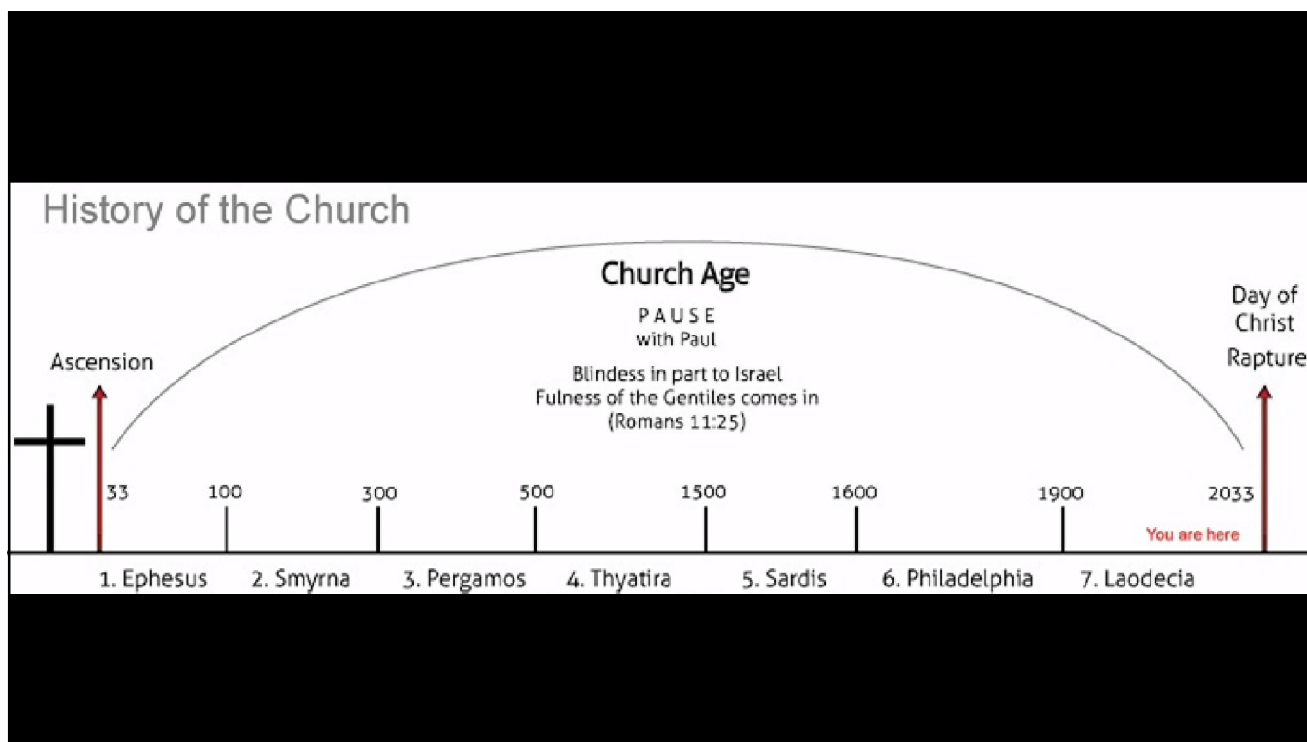
Smyrna: the persecuted church

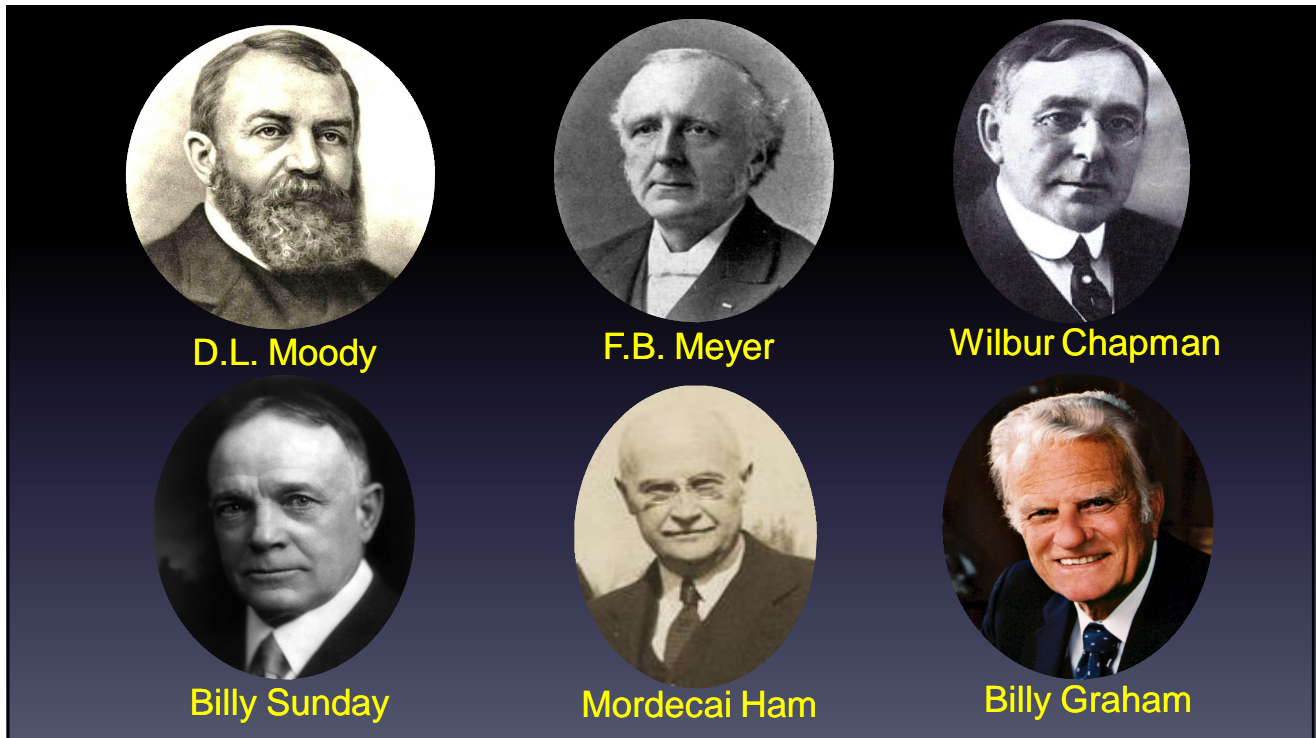
Pergamos: the church that married the world

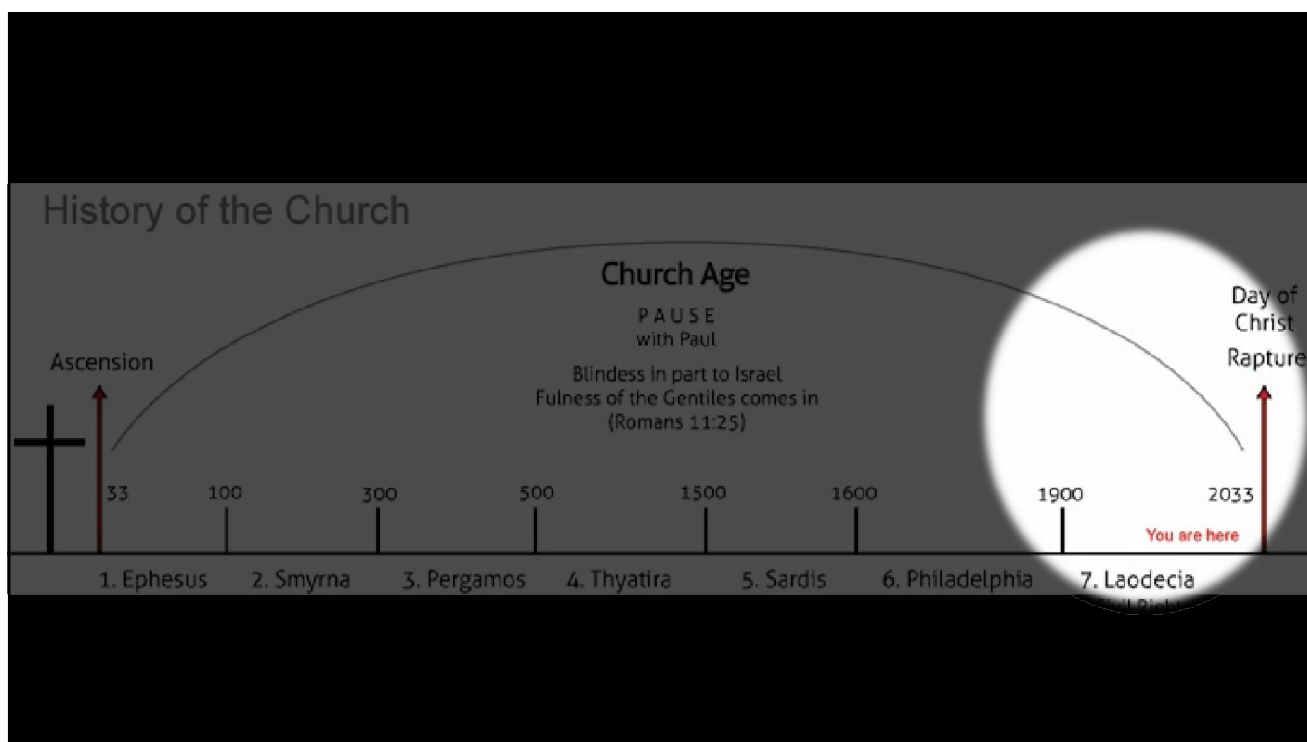
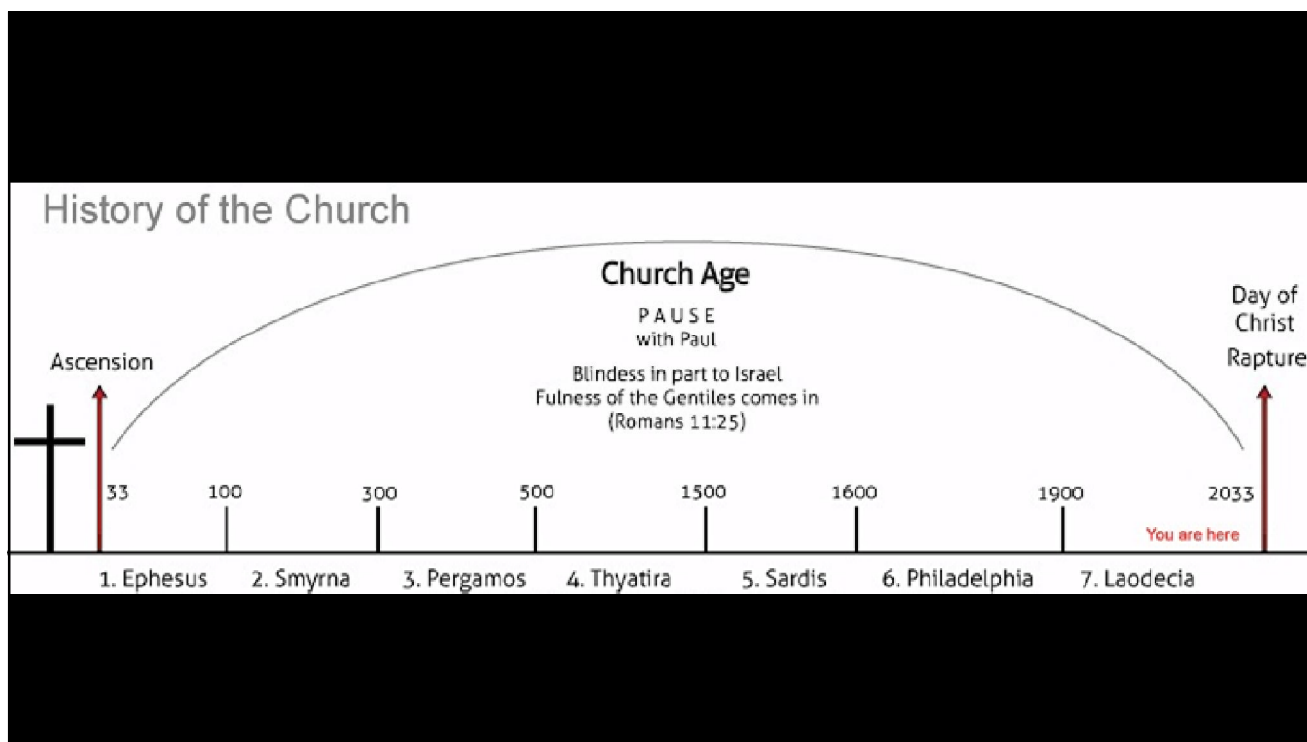
Thyatira: the church not only with but of the world

Sardis: the church full of zombies

Philadelphia: the church with the open door









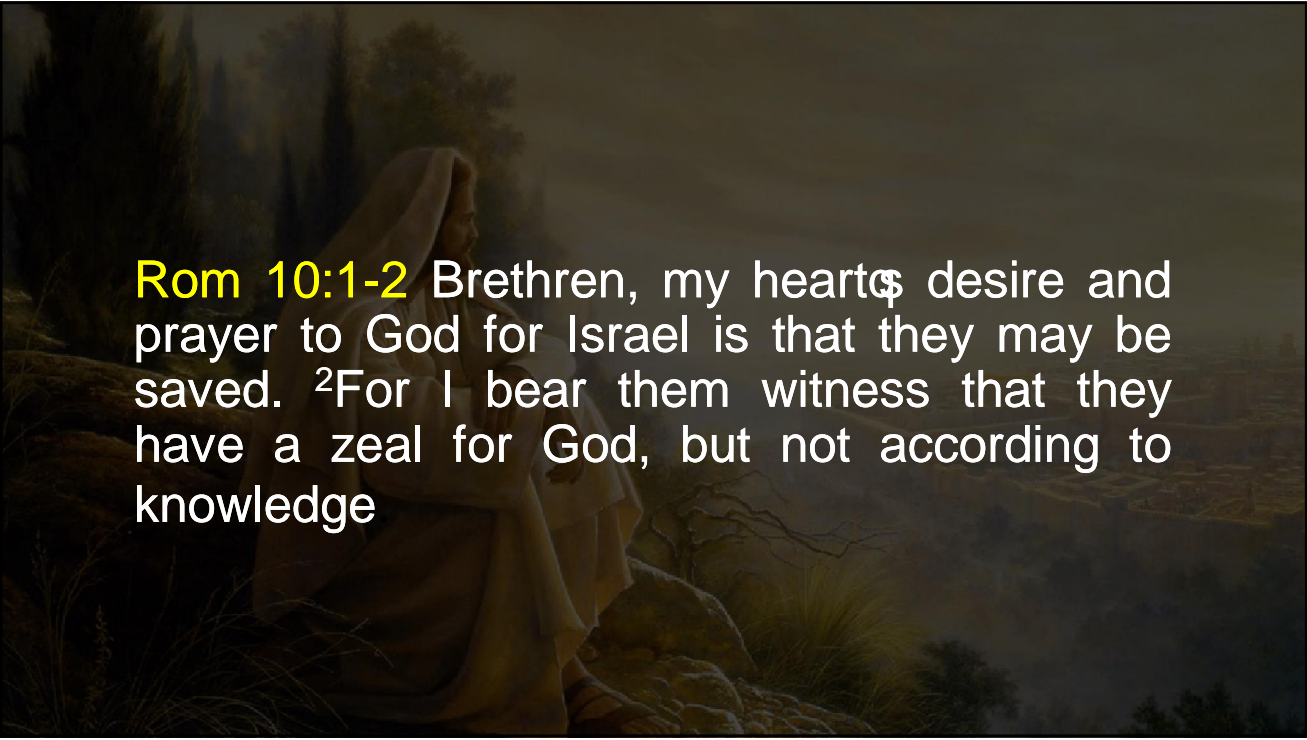
Rev 3:14-22 And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, %These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷Because you say, \pm am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothingq and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²²He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.+



1. Spiritual deadness is a choice

Lk 13:34-35 ¶ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵See! Your house is left to you desolate;



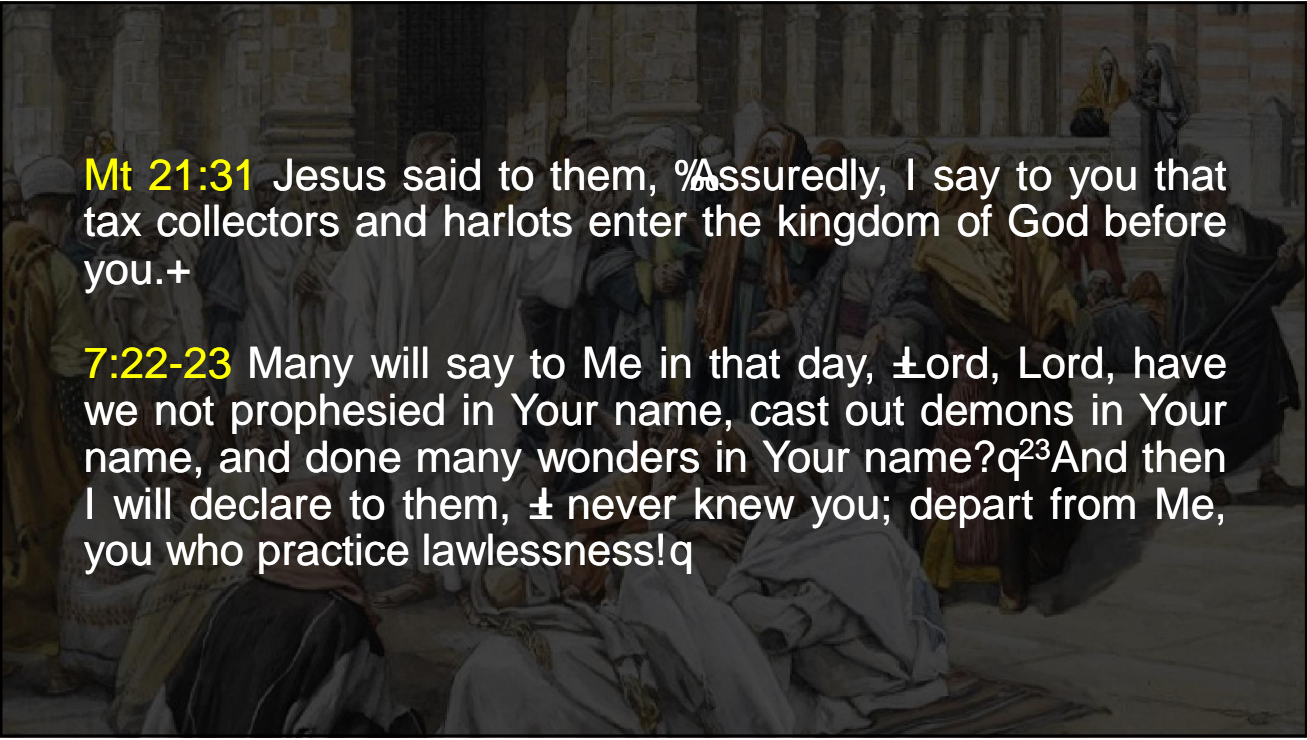
Rom 10:1-2 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ²For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge



2. Spiritual deadness is blinding

2 Pet 2:7-8 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked ⁸(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) (deeds)





Mt 21:31 Jesus said to them, %Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.+

7:22-23 Many will say to Me in that day, ±Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?q²³And then I will declare to them, ± never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!q



2 Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.



Perhaps none of the seven letters is more appropriate to the twentieth century church than this. It describes vividly the respectable, sentimental, nominal, skin-deep religiosity which is so widespread among us today. Our Christianity is flabby and anemic. We appear to have taken a lukewarm bath of religion.+ John R. Stott

3. Laodicea was spiritually dead

Rev 3:15-16 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

4. Laodicea was sadly deceived

Rev 3:17 Because you say, \pm am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

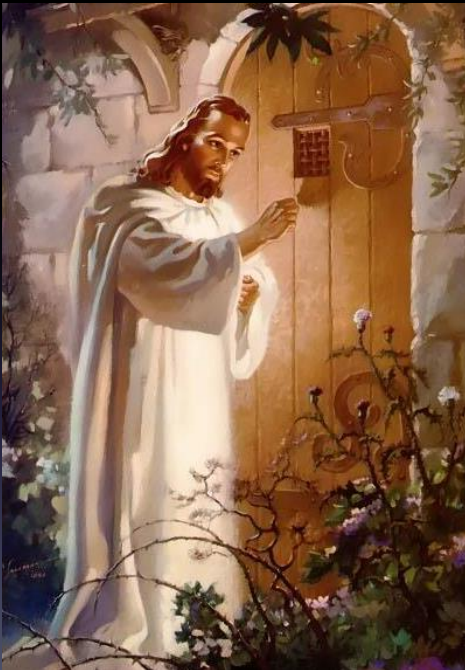
5. Laodicea was sovereignly discredited

Rev 3:18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

1 Pet 1:7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

6. Laodicea was severely desensitized

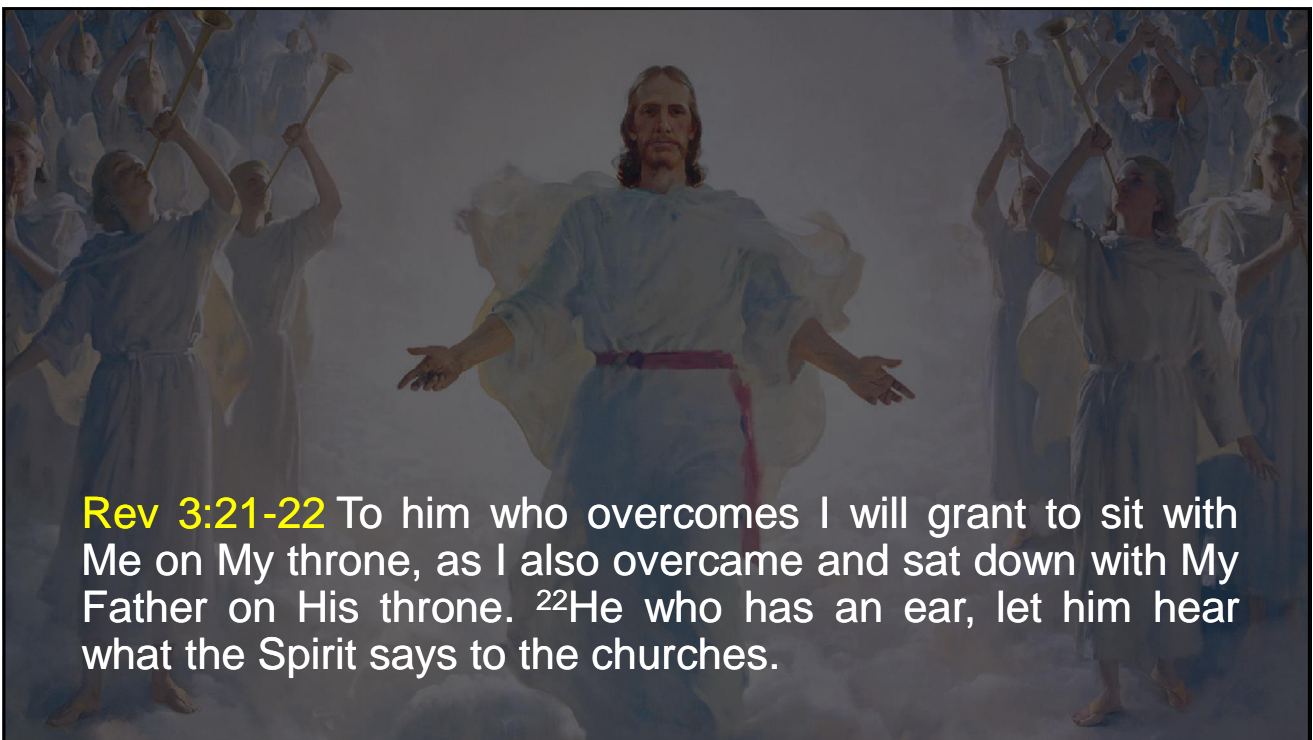
Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.



7. They were the church with the %losed+door

Prov 6:28 Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared?

1 Tim 4:1-2 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ²speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,



Rev 3:21-22 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²²He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.