



## Living Waters Ministries Minister R. Thomas Lambur

### The Seven Conditions Of The End Times Church

*All of these conditions exist in the various churches in the last days.*

**Rev. 2:1** Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks

*a. First of all here we see that Jesus is holding the seven stars in His right hand. These seven stars are the ministers who are charge of the individual churches below.*

*\* Notice here that they are in the hand of Jesus -not the hand of a denomination.*

*They are not "PAWNS of the denomination here... they are "True Men Of God." Every true man of God holds the Gospel of God and the N.T. Apostolic Commission as a Sacred "Trust" before the Lord. There is more severe judgment for having this responsibility.*

*b. Notice here that he is walking with the church (which He calls the seven candlesticks) because He has access... walking is waiting upon the Lord and has the same figurative meaning as when God and Adam walked together having that spiritual fellowship and connection called "Communion with the Living God."*

*c. Many of the churches today have leaders which no longer preach the Cross, the Bible Jesus, and the Word of God... they have given themselves over to other means that they think will help people... Without the Bible being taught... the Spirit of God has nothing to rest upon and the services are empty and without God!*

### Condition #1 Ephesus

**Rev. 2:2** I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. 6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

*a. This church cannot bear with evil... churches today are accommodating!*

*b. This church have those who claim apostleship... they but them to the test... many churches today follow gurus!*

*c. This church has left serving God out of His love for them... They don't wait upon Him any more they are too busy... Many churches today have the same*

*problem!*

*d. This church is considered “backslidden”- “fallen”...hence they are going to lose the light and revelation of God’s Word and Spirit... this often happens to those who backslide. Many churches today have reduced themselves to mere social gatherings and no longer “Fellowship in the Light of the Scripture and Spiritual Communion.”*

*e. This “Nicolaitans” have now become the religious rulers of the congregation... these religious rulers have placed themselves as “ruling priest” in control of the church community... the “Nicolaitan Doctrine” is: believers can no longer go directly to God through Christ (as in the priesthood of N.T. believers) they are taught they must have a priest to intercede and mediate for them. Nicolaitan means: “to conquer the laity.”*

### **Condition #2 Smyrna**

**Rev. 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. 10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. 11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.**

*a. This church has gone through much suffering however the Lord’s reward are going to be given... this church is standing as a testimony for Jesus... Most Christians today haven’t made deep commitments to hold fast in the midst of suffering for the testimony of Christ and the gospel. Before Christians can really stand for this testimony they must “die to self – and commit to living for God” no matter what circumstances come their way. We are faced today in many churches with those who serve God not for “His Glory” but for their own selfish benefits.*

### **Condition #3 Pergamos**

**Re 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. 14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. 15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.**

*a. Wherever there are people who have evil hearts they will set up their “Idolatry.” Satan’s thrown has been setup in this city through this “Idolatry.” Some churches have those who would change the Bible Jesus and the Word of God into the Idolatry of men’s hearts. Then their faith becomes worship of their own image of God.*

*b. “Antipas” was a faithful believer than was bold against the sin of Idolatry... This church has some who will lay down their lives for the “True Gospel.” I*

*pray we could see more boldness and preaching against sin in America's Pulpits!*

*c. This church here is holding to a teaching outside of the Scripture... the teaching which has lead them away from the Cross and the teachings of Christ to "Idolatry." This teaching was introduced by a false prophet and permitted by the elders there... because of this they have committed (spiritual adultery) fornication with other gods. The church many times includes teaching outside the Scriptures and permits false prophets to teach people to trust in something other than Jesus Christ as their source.*

*d. Again we see the Nicolaitans have come to control the church community... spiritual abuses are certain in these environments. Today spiritual gurus for leadership are in the church setting up their control systems.*

*e. The last days churches will be at war with false prophets and spiritual gurus!*

#### **Condition #4 Thyatira**

**Rev. 2:19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. 20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.**

**22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. 24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.**

*a. This church is allowing a false prophetess to teach them.*

*b. Again we see the church in "Idolatry" receiving another Gospel, and another Jesus, taught by another spirit.*

*c. Notice the New Testament here is speaking of an active "Judgment" upon false prophets and teachers in the church... There is the element of "space" given to repent before this judgment yet it was not taken... many churches today that have false prophets and teachers are inviting the same judgments to come upon themselves... her children are those who are the offspring of her teachings, which God will not tolerate.*

*d. This false teaching has led the church astray into the depths evil doing against God's Holy Word...*

*The Lord is coming to judge this house... he calls for repentance, renunciation, and break of associations...*

*He comes to cleanse His House the church... Ultimately by His judgment upon the wicked false leaders!*

*"Death" here is the same as Ananias and Sapphira by God's power. God is coming to the end time church to do the same... to judge it! He's coming.*

### Condition #5 Sardis

Rev. 3:1b. I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. 2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. 4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

*a. This church is not reverent toward God... they had once had a reputation for fervency... they once were alive and living strong for Jesus but their fire has gone out... Once they were a wick in the menorah lit with the fire of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God... they did not preserve in the faith... they backslid and now have fallen into "dead religion."*

*b. They are "dead" and those dead do not know what time it is... spiritually speaking. The Lord has told them here that He is coming and they aren't aware of it. The dead also aren't aware of the return of Christ...*

*There are those in the church today that won't be ready... they will miss the Rapture... when Christ comes as a thief it will be over...*

*c. These also have backslidden.. they have become worldly and their garments are defiled by their sins... the*

*promise of security is given upon a return to the Lord through repentance... they are assured that they which*

*renew a right relationship with the Lord through repentance they will not be blotted out of the book of Life!*

*d. Apparently a shameful attitude about Jesus, the Gospel, being a Christian, Living a Christian God Pleasing*

*Life is something that the end times church will have to deal with... here Jesus is recording every testimony of those who are ashamed of Him or those who are true Witnesses of Him.*

### Condition #6 Philadelphia

Rev. 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. 9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

*a. Apparently Satan likes churches that are religious...and also likes Christians who are hypocrites!.. not truly living for Jesus. Satan likes inconstancies...because he causes abuse there.*

*b. This church however is a small remnant group who have kept the faith in the*

*midst of persecution...*

*they have retained the understanding of the Name of Jesus and the meaning of the Cross... kept the preaching and teaching of the Word of God... have strength from God's Spirit... and are receiving God's increase an open door because of their faithfulness. Would to God that more churches were like this one.*

#### **Condition #7 Laodicean**

**Rev. 3:15** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. **16** So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. **17** Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: **18** I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. **19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

**20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

*a. This church gathering is "lukewarm." God isn't impressed with the view that this church has for itself... this church hasn't measured itself by God's standards the Bible... it has measured itself against the world.*

*b. The spiritual state of this church gather is questionable... at best they are either backslid or not saved at all... Jesus does love and call to them individually.*

*c. Jesus is on the outside of this gathering appealing to the individual to have communion with Him... Notice Jesus is not in the midst of this church... they have ignored His headship altogether... a social gathering which ignores the preaching of God's Word... the Spirit of God dwells on the outside of this community!*