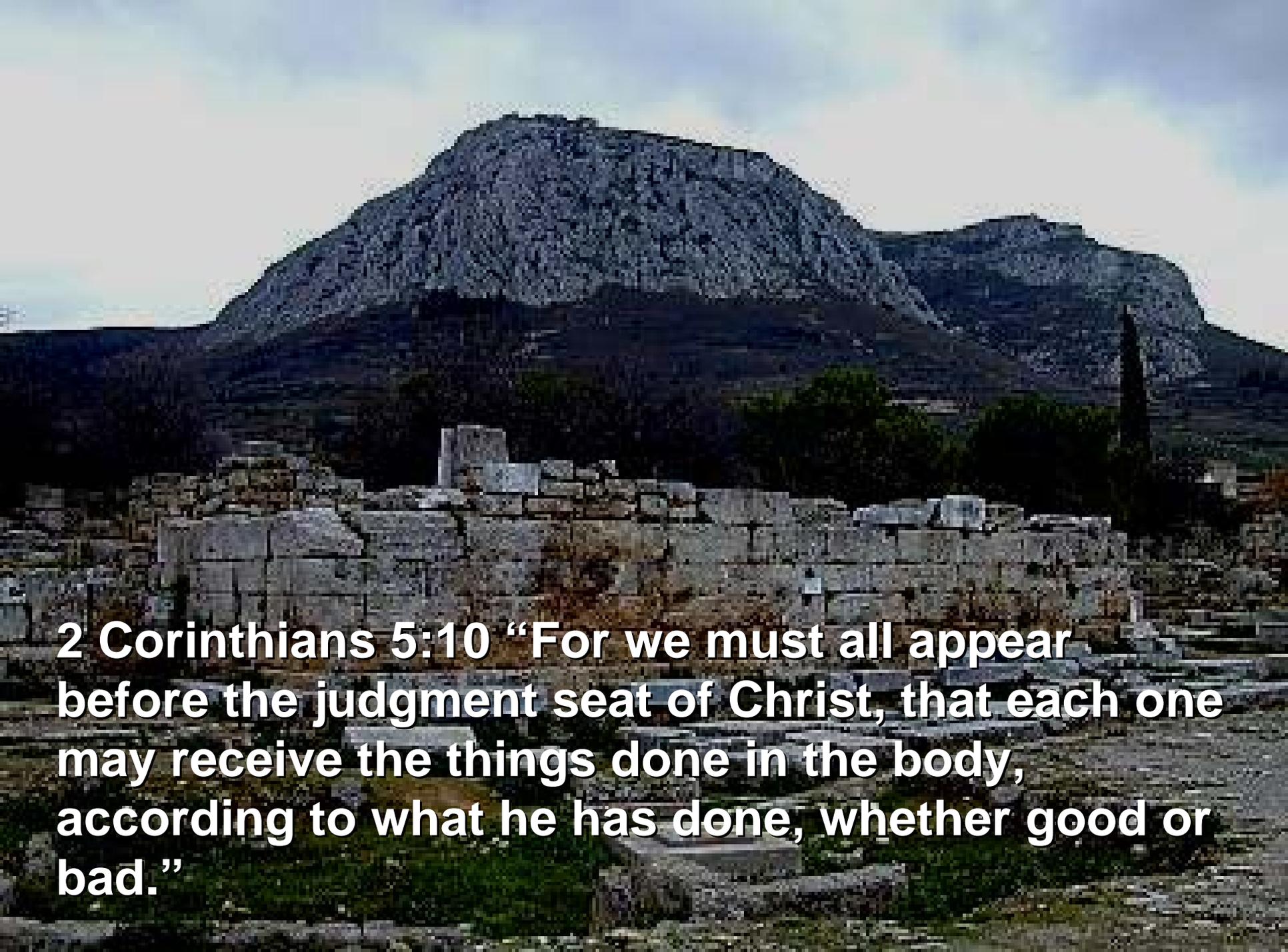


The Seven Churches of Revelation



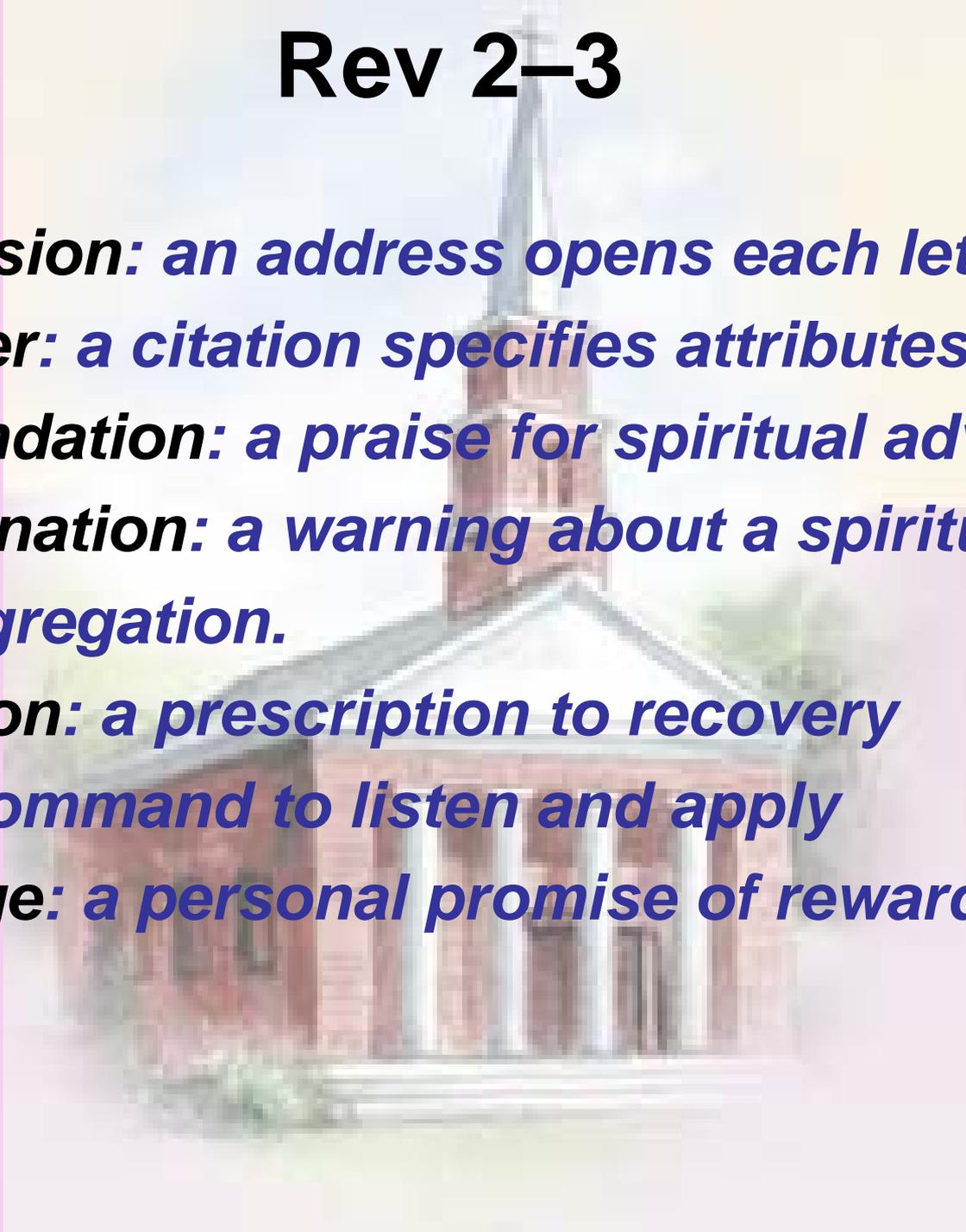


2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

Ecclesiastical Trends in the Church Age



Rev 2–3

- 1. Commission: an address opens each letter***
 - 2. Character: a citation specifies attributes of Christ***
 - 3. Commendation: a praise for spiritual advance***
 - 4. Condemnation: a warning about a spiritual flaw in the congregation.***
 - 5. Correction: a prescription to recovery***
 - 6. Call: a command to listen and apply***
 - 7. Challenge: a personal promise of reward***
- 



Black Sea



ASIA

- Pergamum
- Thyatira
- Sardis
- Philadelphia
- Laodicea
- Ephesus

Aegean Sea

DACIA

MOESIA

THRACIA

BITHYNIA-PONTUS

GALATIA

CAPPADOCIA

ARMENIA

MESOPOTAMIA

CILICIA

LYCIA

IONIA

CYPRUS

CARIA

CRETE

RHODES

Ister River

EUPHRATES

COMMENDATIONS

The background image shows a wide view of ancient ruins, likely in Ephesus, Turkey. In the foreground, there are several tall, weathered stone columns and a paved walkway. A group of people is walking along the path. The middle ground is filled with more ruins, including walls and arches, surrounded by green trees. The background features a valley with rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

- Labor
- Endurance
- No tolerance for evil
- Evaluation of doctrinal claims, apostolic assertions
- Persevered under trial
- Not grown weary

CONDEMNATION

- **Lost your priority love for God**



Revelation 2:7 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”



Revelation 2:8

“And to the angel of the church in **Smyrna** write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:’”

COMMENDATION

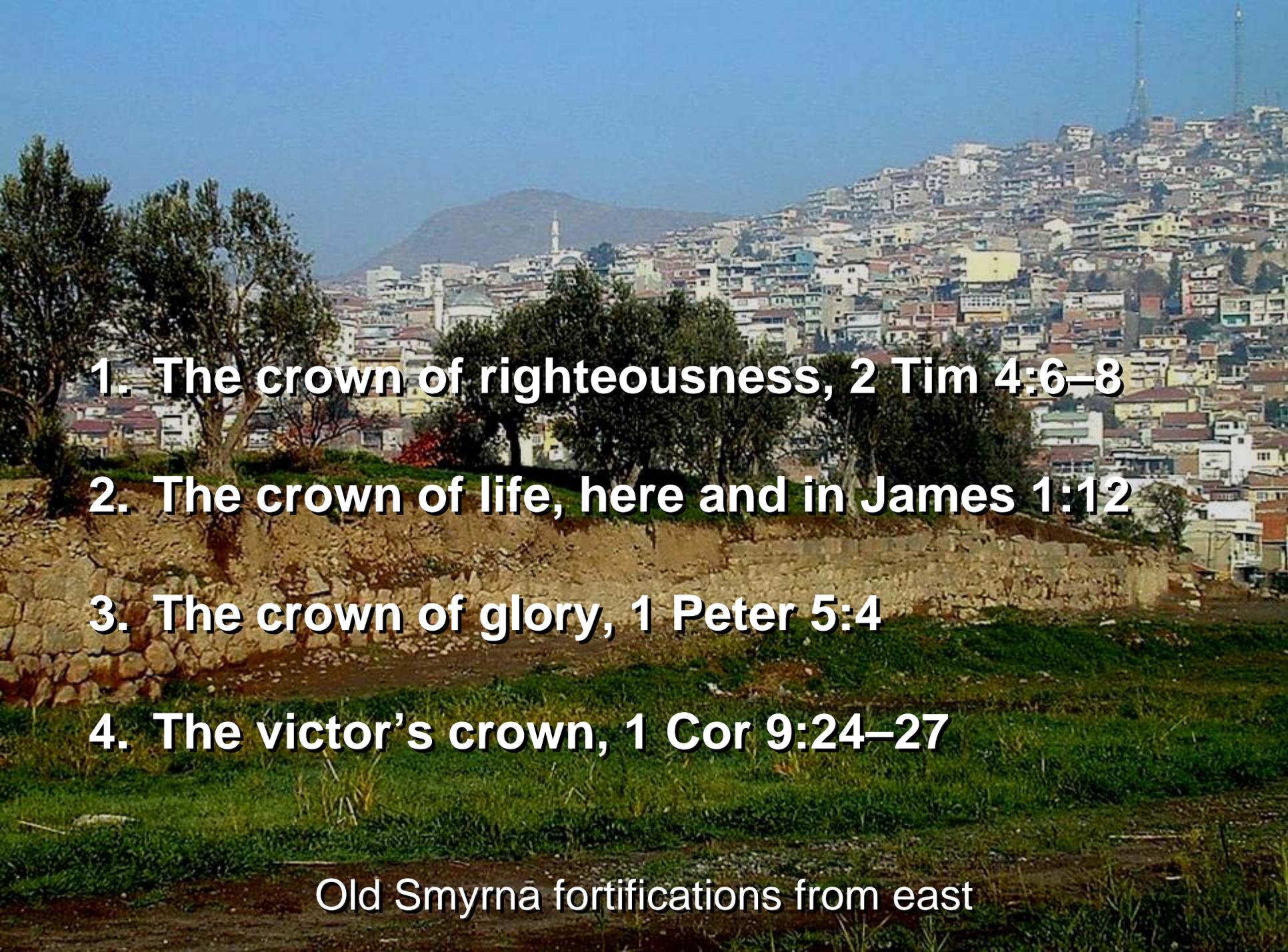
- Adversity
- Persecution
- Martyrdom

Smyrna agora first level arches

INCENTIVE

- Be faithful unto death
- Crown of life
- No loss of rewards

- Smyrna agora first level arches



1. The crown of righteousness, 2 Tim 4:6–8

2. The crown of life, here and in James 1:12

3. The crown of glory, 1 Peter 5:4

4. The victor's crown, 1 Cor 9:24–27

Old Smyrnā fortifications from east

1 Thessalonians 2:19 “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?”

Revelation 2:11 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”

Rev. 20:6 “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

Rev. 21:8 “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”



Revelation 2:12
“And to the
angel of the
church in
Pergamum
write, ‘These
things says He
who has the
sharp two-
edged sword:’”

COMMENDATIONS

An aerial photograph of the Pergamum River valley. The landscape is a mix of green fields, brownish-grey rocky terrain, and a winding river. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a wide, panoramic view of a valley.

- **Held fast in a hostile environment**
- **Did not deny Christ**

Pergamum River valley

CONDEMNATIONS

An aerial photograph of the ruins of the Temple of Dionysus in Pergamum, Turkey. The temple is a large, rectangular structure with a central courtyard. The ruins are made of dark stone and are surrounded by a grassy hillside. The temple is in a state of significant disrepair, with many columns and walls missing. The surrounding area is covered in green grass and some small trees.

- **Compromised with Paganism:
Balaam, Nicolaitans**

Pergamum Temple of Dionysus

Revelation 2:17 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the **hidden manna** to eat. And I will give him a **white stone**, and on the stone a **new name** written which no one knows except him who receives it.”



Revelation 2:18
“And to the angel
of the church in
Thyatira write,
‘These things
says the Son of
God, who has
eyes like a flame
of fire, and His
feet like fine
brass:’”



“These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:”

COMMENDATIONS

The background image shows a landscape with numerous large, light-colored stone blocks and fragments scattered across the ground. In the distance, there are several multi-story residential buildings with balconies, partially obscured by trees. The scene is set outdoors under a clear blue sky, with a mix of green trees and some bare branches.

- **Love**
- **Service**
- **Faith rest drill**
- **Patience**
- **Increasing works**

Thyatira road and architectural fragments

Revelation 2:19 “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last *are* more than the first.”

CONDEMNATIONS

- **Compromise with pressure to conform to Paganism**

Thyatira road and architectural fragments



Revelation 2:26 “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations –

Revelation 2:27 “and He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels – as I also have received from My Father;”

Revelation 2:28 “and I will give him the morning star.”

Incentives:

- **Hold fast**
- **Power over the nations**
- **Morning Star**



Revelation 3:1
“And to the angel of the church in **Sardis** write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.””

CONDEMNATIONS

- Reputation of life, but in carnal death
- Call to remember
- Watch
- Change





INCENTIVES

- **White garments**
- **Name not blotted out of the Book of Life**
- **Praised before God and the angels**

Revelation 3:5 “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”



Revelation 3:7
“And to the angel
of the church in
Philadelphia
write, ‘These
things says He
who is holy, He
who is true, He
who has the key
of David, He who
opens and no one
shuts, and shuts
and no one
opens:”

COMMENDATIONS

- **Opportunity**
- **Spiritual strength**
- **Obedient in applying the Word**
- **Not denied Christ**
- **Endurance**

Philadelphia view to south from Acropolis

INCENTIVES

- **Hold fast**
- **Pillar in the Temple of God**
- **Name of My God, Name of the city of My God, My new name**

Philadelphia Church of St. John columns

Revelation 3:12 “He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of Heaven from My God. And *I will write on him My new name.*”



Revelation 3:14
“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:’”



CONDEMNATIONS

- **Lukewarm**
- **Compromised**
- **Self-sufficient**
- **Arrogant**

Laodicea bridge crossing Lycus River

INCENTIVES

- **Co-rule with Christ in the Kingdom**

Laodicea aqueduct pieces