

/We will now begin our third lecture on Revelation. /Today's text is Revelation chapter 2.  
/Chapter 2 focuses on the church's secularization and tribulation. /First, the church of Ephesus- /  
The loss of their first love. /Verses 1-7.

/Second, the church of Smyrna- /Faced tribulations. /Verses 8-11. /Third, the church of  
Pergamum- /Secularized. /Verses 12-17. /Fourth, the church of Thyatira- /Tolerates Jezebel.  
/Verses 18-29.

/Read Revelation 2:1. / "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him  
who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands:

/Ephesus is Asia Minor's most important city. /There is a harbor there. /There is also a lake.  
/Cayster Lake. /Likewise, that place is a very important city.

/There was said to be a shrine of Zeus. /The Greek god Zeus. /There was also a shrine of Diana. /  
Shrine of Diana. /This shrine of Diana was said to be a large shrine of 127 pillars.

/There were many idols within the location of the church of Ephesus. /Here, a letter is being sent  
to the messenger of the church of Ephesus.

/Our Lord does not write letters directly to the members of a church, but delivers letters to the  
church's messenger.

/This messenger refers to the leadership. /This leadership is a representation of a church's  
members. /The faith of a church's members parallels that of a church's leaders. /Jesus held seven  
stars in His right hand.

/These "seven stars" represent the seven churches' messengers, the leaders. /The leaders are  
important. /The leaders shine like stars. /Like stars, they illuminate the dark world. /Daniel 12:3

/Jesus holds onto pastors with his right hand and uses them. /He is master of the church. /He also  
protects the church. /He guides the church. /Here, the lampstand symbolizes the church.

/In 1:20, this lampstand represents the church. /It states that the church is a gold lampstand. /That it is made of gold means that the church is important. /It means it is valuable. /Ephesians 1:22

/In this world, the church is most valuable and most precious. /This is because God uses this church to save people.

/Now read verse 2. / I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

/Verse 3. / You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

/There is a lot of good within the church in Ephesus. / The church in Ephesus is praised for many reasons.

/First, their acts were good. / They acted well through faith. / They lived with an active faith. /Second, they worked hard.

/They performed difficult tasks doing God's works. /They toiled much. /Third, they persevered and endured. /James 5:7-11. / We must also act and toil like the church in Ephesus.

/We must persevere when there are many troubles. /Fourth, they did not tolerate wicked beings. / They revealed those who falsely proclaimed themselves as apostles.

/These "self-proclaimed apostles" are false prophets. /1 Corinthians 5:6 /These false prophets were removed by the church when they stepped inside. /The church protected its purity when chasing them out.

/We must recognize and reveal false prophets. /We must examine and cut off wrong deeds. /Matthew 7:16 /2 Corinthians 11:13-15 /Galatians 1:8-9

/We must teach the Bible correctly. /We must also learn correctly.

/Now read verses 4-5. / Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.

/This church in Ephesus is said to have forsaken first love.

/Read verse 5. / Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

/The church in Ephesus did many other things well. /However, they lost that significant "first love." /Therefore, the lampstand is said to be removed if one does not find that first love once more.

/To remove the lampstand means to have life's workings put to an end. /This means God will take the gifts given to the church in Ephesus and throw them away. /There are gifts God has given to each and every one of us.

/We must have that first love. /What is first love? /This is love of the spiritual world. /This is a world of light. /It is a world of truth. /It is a world of life. /1 John 3:14, 15 /4:9 /5:3

/First love refers to the fiery love experienced when one first believes in Jesus. /To the Israelites, love occurs in marriage. /Lamentations 2:2 /First love is when one first believes in God and loves him passionately.

/This first love sprouts from the instincts of our spirits in rebirth. /1 Peter 1:22 /This kind of love sprouts from works within the spirit. / This is a love of thanksgiving that comes from being deeply moved by salvation.

/It is to love God passionately. /Luke 7:37, 28 /First love transcends material things. /Acts 2:44 /It is a love that exceeds hardships. /Colossians 1:24 /Next is love that transcends life. /1 Thessalonians 2:8

/To find this first love, we must first find the cause of its loss. /How was first love lost? /One must repent there and return. /Genesis 28:21, 22 /Genesis 35:1-3

/It is easy for us to fall while being in love with this world. / It is easy for us to lose first love by ceasing to pray. /It is easy for us to lose that first love by spending so much time and efforts on other businesses related to church.

/Also, hedonism and Epicureanism will lead to the loss of first love. /The Greeks are said to have four kinds of love. /First is agape love. /Agape love. /This is elegant and spiritual love.

/This is unchangeable love, /infinite love, /unconditional love, /eternal love, /endless love. /This is divine love. /This is the love God loved us with. /Second is stolge. /Stolge is familial love.

/It is love based on lineage. /Between parent and child, /between siblings, /towards people of other ethnicities. /This is Stolge love. /Next is phileo love. /Phileo. /This phileo refers to friendship shared between friends.

/Fourth is eros. /Eros. /Eros refers to romantic love between man and woman. /This is physical love. /We must pursue agape love.

/We must think of the grace of our Lord's love for us, and have faith based on a burning love for the Lord. /We must find a love inspired by the grace of redemption, saying, "I will be loyal until death."

/If one does not hold on to first love, God will remove the candlestick. /He will be disconnected from our lives. /Therefore, we must do other things well, but also find first love.

/Read verse 6. / But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

/Another thing the church of Ephesus did well is that they hated the practices of the Nicolaitans. / 2:14, 15 states that the Nicolaitans held the teachings of Balaam.

/The Nicolaitans and Balaam are the same. /The fruits of both led others to eat food sacrificed to idols and commit sexual immorality. / Balaam's teachings and Nicolaitans' teachings are the same. /1 Timothy 4:4

/We should not eat foods sacrificed to idols. /Acts 15:28, 29 /2 Peter 2:2, 3 /Numbers 25:1-3 /1 Corinthians 8:7 /1 Corinthians 10:18-20 / We must not eat foods sacrificed to idols.

/We must hate the practices of these sinners. /Proverbs 8:13 /Psalm 97:10 /We must love people and hate sin. /Hate sin and love people.

/We must not hate people while hating sin. /We must not love sin while loving people. /These wrong perceptions must be thrown away.

/Read verse 7. / He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

/It is the ear that understands the Word of God. /One may understand through the Holy Spirit. /Here, letters are written to the "churches." /If you look here, the passage is not referring to only the church of Ephesus.

/There were many churches in the New Testament that held similar aspects as the seven churches of Asia. /To him who overcome are said to be given fruit to eat from the tree of life in the paradise of God.

/We must find first love. /This is to gain victory. /Next, the paradise of God appears. /The paradise of God is where the righteous must go. /Luke 23:43 /2 Corinthians 12:4 / It is also called the third heaven.

/That world is a world of love. /It is spiritual world. /It is a world of life. /It is a world of joy. /It is stated that they will be permitted to eat from the tree of life.

/The church of Ephesus ultimately discovers the world of life after they repent and find first love. /There are living works when one finds the world of life.

/New life gradually grows. /Revelation 22:1-7 /Ezekiel 47:12 /Joy and peace are bountiful there. /Then one is able to produce the fruit of life and the fruit of the Spirit. /Galatians 5:22-23

/Therefore, we must find this first love through the church of Ephesus. /We must love the Lord passionately, being thankful for His grace.

/We will continue our lecture with verse 8. /The church in Smyrna.

/Read 2:8. / "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

/The church in Smyrna was located 56 kilometers north of Ephesus. / At that time, there lived bishops such as Polycarp. /This Polycarp was martyred in AD 155 at the age of 86.

/The Roman soldiers tried to burn Polycarp at the stake. /The soldiers told Polycarp, "Say you don't know Jesus just once and we will free you of death." /Then, Polycarp replied.

/I lived 86 years of my life serving the Lord. /Not once has the Lord done me wrong throughout those years. /The Lord never claimed that He didn't know me.

/Then how can I violate my King who has saved me? / Thus, Polycarp faced martyrdom.

/ Smyrna is a wealthy city. /They cultured many grapes. /It is a city of trade. /It is a beautiful city.

/It is also a city in which one can travel to other nations by road. /There were several temples. /They were places where emperor worship took place. /The church in Smyrna was located there.

/A letter is written to the messenger of the church of Smyrna. /The figure of Jesus is present. /It is stated that Jesus is the first and the last. /He was dead and is now alive.

/The first and the last are the beginning and the end. /It is the alpha and omega. /This is the eternal God. /Our God initiated salvation. / He is one who will complete salvation. /1:17,18

/Jesus appeared in this way. /He appeared as One who would die and rise again. /This refers to the Lord of resurrection. /Our Jesus comforts the persecuted church in Smyrna.

/The church of Smyrna seemed dead after having faced persecutions. / Their life was endangered. /However, they were shown the figure of Jesus who died and rose again. /This means to hold onto the Jesus of resurrection.

/This means to have hope in the resurrection. /Our Christianity is a religion of resurrection. /It may appear to be dead, but it lives again. /It falls seven times, but rises again. /There is hope even among persecution. /Jesus who resurrected encourages us.

/Verse 9 / I know your afflictions and your poverty--yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

/Jesus knew all of the church of Smyrna's afflictions and poverty. /The Lord knows the states of our faith. /He also knows when there is unbelief. /He also knows that this church in Smyrna keeps their faith well.

/Despite the afflictions and poverty they face, Jesus acknowledged them as being rich in His eyes. /They faced physical persecutions. / However, Jesus sees within and says, "yet you are rich"

/They were poor on the outside but rich in spirit. /2 Timothy 3:12 / When we try to live with faith, we will face persecution. /Hebrews 11:37 / We must keep our conscience of faith even when we face tribulations and poverty.

/We must become wealthy in faith. /Our faith must become faith that is acknowledged by the Lord's eyes. /Self-proclaiming Jews appear. /They are people who proclaim that they are Christians.

/God does not acknowledge these types of people. /These people think that they believe in Jesus. /Our Lord knows all of this. / These self-proclaiming Jews slandered members of the church in Smyrna.

/They persecuted believers. /They defiled them. /Romans 2:28 / Likewise, people like these self-proclaiming Jews persecute believers. /We must firmly keep our faith with the Word we receive during those times. /2 Timothy 3:14

/Ultimately, the Jewish society was called "the synagogue of Satan." /They eventually become people who go against the church. /They are people who persecute believers.

/Ultimately, they were called "the synagogue of Satan." /Numbers 14:27,35 /They are meetings of Satan. /They are made to serve idols.

/Read verse 10. / Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

/It states that there will be suffering. /It states not to fear those sufferings. /We must expect the suffering and distress that will eventually come. /We must not think it strange when hardships come. /1 Peter 4:12

/We must not fear when suffering comes. / We must remain strong and courageous. /Judges 7:2-3 /However, it's stated that Satan will throw several of our believers into prison.

/Several people will face great tribulations. /However, believers are ultimately victorious. /Believers can triumph even when Satan tries to test them. /Even if persecutors lock believers in prison, God protects the believers.

/The tribulations and persecutions we face exist because God allows them to exist. /Why did God allow tribulations? /This is so that he may pour out his grace upon his believers. /He attempts to give us the crown of glory.



/Here in verse 10, it is stated, "you will suffer persecution for ten days." /The number 10 is the complete number of humans. /It is God's set period of time.

/Our tribulations do not continue eternally. /There is a set time period. /Great hardships also have a time period. /This number 10 is the complete number of humans. /It is the number of the flesh. /Genesis 24:55 /Genesis 31:41 /Daniel 1:12, 14

/This means our troubles have a set time period. /Here, it says there are ten days of tribulations. /It is unknown how many months it will be or how many years it will be.

/This is God's determined period of time. /When that period comes to an end, the trial will be finished. /1 Corinthians 10:13 /James 1:12 /It says to be faithful even to the point of death. /This means to be faithful to the point of giving up your life.

/Loyalty is to carry out the mission by all means. /Believers are given missions and talents from God. /We must remain loyal to these until death.

/We must live with truth even in the midst of tribulations and persecutions. / We must abandon human means and ways. / The Lord said He would give us the crown of life if we remain loyal.

/He gives the crown of life to those who remain loyal to death. /The soul grows. /It receives the crown of reward. /It receives glory.

/Read verse 11. / He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.

/It is stated that "he who overcomes" will not be hurt by the second death. /The first death refers to the death of our physical bodies. /The second death refers to the death of the soul. /The second death is a spiritual death.

/This means to go to an eternal hell. /The second death is an eternal judgment. /Revelation 19:10 /20:6 /Verse 14 /21:8 /That place is called the lake of fire. /Therefore, those who keep their faith well will not face the second death.

/Our faith must become like that of the church in Smyrna. /Only the church in Smyrna was praised. /On the outside, they faced tribulations and persecutions. /However, our Jesus acknowledged them.

/Jesus said, "You have faith." /"You are rich in faith." /"Be faithful." /"Bear the ten days of tribulation." /He promised, "Then I will give you the crown of life."

/We will continue with Revelation 2:12. /Read verse 12. / "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

/These are words concerning the church in Pergamum. /Pergamum was located in the province of Mysia. /Next, the church was located by the river Caicus. /The province of Mysia.

/Next, the river Caicus /There was a temple built to worship the Roman emperor. /There was also a temple of Zeus.

/As seen, there was a lot of idol worship. / Pergamum is the capital of the province of Asia. / They served a god of medicine. /Aesculapius. /Aesculapius. / This is the god of medicine.

/They served many gods. /In what form did Jesus appear in front of the church in Pergamum? /The figure of Jesus that appears here is said to have a double-edged sword.

/What is the reason that Jesus appeared with this double-edged sword? /This church in Pergamum lacked spiritual discernment. /That is why Jesus appeared with a double-edged sword. /Truth and falsehood must be divided. /Hebrews 4:12

/Read verse 13. / I know where you live--where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city--where Satan lives.

/ Pergamum is said to have been where Satan has his throne. /There were many gods being served there. /They even served a snake god. /They served Zeus. /Next, they also served a god of

wine.

/They also worshiped emperors. /That is why the Bible says this Pergamum is "where Satan has his throne." /It was difficult for people to believe in Jesus because the church was located in a place of many idols.

/This Antipas is an overseer of the church in Pergamum. /However, he was martyred while keeping his faith. /He was a good leader.

/He did not give in to the devil. /He did not give in to idols. /He was martyred by keeping his faith. /Matthew 16:25

/Read verse 14. / Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality..

/This church in Pergamum has some wrongdoings. /They were keeping the teachings of Balaam. /Balaam is a false prophet. /This Balak is king of Moab. /This Moab king invited Balaam.

/Thereafter, Balak asked Balaam to curse the Israelites. /Balaam tried to curse the Israelites, but God transformed the curse into a blessing.

/Balaam asked God. Should I go? Should I not? /God then answered, "Do not go." /Numbers 22:13 /However, this Moab king later arrived with more wealth.

/Balaam then asked God again. Should I go? Should I not? /Then God said to "go." /Numbers 22:15-20 /When we pray with a heart of wanting to go, we usually think that that is God's will.

/God let Balaam go because he prayed with greed in his heart. /God looks at the heart. /2 Peter 2:15, 16 /What is Balaam's prayer? /He prayed, already having decided what to do, and asked God whether he should go or not.

/This is Balaam's prayer. /His prayer is one full of greed. /God went to Moab and blessed the Israelites. /However, Balaam later practiced witchcraft. /Deuteronomy 23:5 / Deuteronomy 23:5 / Numbers 25:1

/Balaam laid a snare for the Israelite people. /Balaam taught the king of Moab. /He taught him how to destroy the Israelites.

/That was to participate in sexual immorality and eat foods sacrificed to idols. /Numbers 31:16 /Jude 1:11 /That is why the Israelites fell to Balaam's trap. /Hence, they sinned and many people died.

/We must not serve idols. / It says do not serve idols in the second commandment. /We must also not eat foods sacrificed to idols. /Acts 15:20 /Acts 15:29 /1 Corinthians 10:18 /Balaam eventually perished. /Numbers 31:8

/Therefore, we must abstain from eating food offered to pay respects to ancestors. /In addition, we must not eat food offered as sacrifice to spirits, or food that have been used for worship in the tomb.

/Read verse 15. / Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

/The teaching of the Nicolaitans and the teaching of Balaam are the same.

/Verse 16. / Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

/Jesus told the church in Pergamum to repent. /This sword symbolizes God's Word. /John 12:48 / Whoever does not repent will receive judgment by the Word of God.

/Verse 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. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

/We must become those who overcome. /The victorious are said to receive three things. /First, they will be given "hidden manna." /This means God will provide spiritual food. / This means they will understand the truth through the Bible.

/They may also eat food of grace. / Second, God will give "a white stone." /The white stone represents Jesus. /1 Peter 2:4 /This is to take after Jesus' nature. /We may become more like Jesus if we overcome Balaam's teachings.

/Third, a new name will be given. /A new name is new character. /Thus, it is the growing of the soul. /It is to become a new being. /It is to become a new creation.

/That is how we receive praise from the Lord. / Jacob's name was changed to Israel. /2 Corinthians 5:17 /1 Timothy 3:9 /We must throw away Balaam's teachings. /We must have discernment for the Word.

/ We must cut out what is wrong as according to the Word. /We must keep our faith like the overseer Antipas of the church of Pergamum. /Satan's throne stood around him.

/All the people of that region worshiped gods. /There are few who kept their faith among them. / They were people like Antipas. /We must also defeat these kinds of wrong teachings. /We must overcome heresies and cults.

/We must defeat false prophets. /Only then can we eat manna. /We will become like Jesus, the white stone. /Jesus gives us new character.

/We will now conclude our third lecture on Revelation. / Thank you.