

*“Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.” – Revelation 1:19*

**Overview:**

Each of the letters are written to an actual church in the late 1<sup>st</sup> century. Each letter has application for the church of Jesus Christ throughout time. Finally, each church can represent an aspect of the overall church's history as it unfolded. The problem with placing the churches in a specific historical period is the tendency to skew the time line to one's own perspective. Every age has had some characteristics of all seven churches and each of the seven letters has something to say to every age of the church. **“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”** Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, & 22

**Ephesus** – The Loveless Church – Revelation 2:4 (Key Verse),  
- Historical period – Birth of the Church (Acts 2) to 100AD – Apostolic age

**Smyrna** – Persecuted Church – Revelation 2:9-10 (Key Verse)  
- Historical period – 100AD to 313AD

**Pergamos** – Sanctioned Church – Revelation 2:14-15 (Key Verse)  
- Historical period – 313-600AD

**Thyatira** – Corrupted Church – Revelation 2:19-20 (Key Verse)  
- Historical period – 600-1517

**Sardis** – Dead Church – Revelation 3:1 (Key Verse)  
- Historical period – 1517-1730

**Philadelphia** – Faithful Church – Revelation 3:8 (Key Verse)  
- Historical period – Great Awakening and Modern Missions

**Laodicea** – Lukewarm Church – Revelation 3:16 (Key Verse)  
- Historical period – 1900-Ongoing

Eschatology is made up of two Greek words, *eschatos* – last things, things of the end and *logos* – words about or study of. A helpful framework for Eschatology in Revelation is:

- The Rapture – Jesus coming for His people – Between chapters 3 & 4 of Revelation
- Tribulation – 7 years of God's judgment poured on on the earth – Revelation 4-19
- Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming with His church – Millennial kingdom – Revelation 20
- Final Judgment – Revelation 20:11-15
- Make all things new – Revelation 21-22

Calvary Chapel teaches a pre-tribulational, pre-millennial view of Eschatology. This means we believe God's Word teaches that the church will be raptured before the start of the tribulation and Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming will happen before the start of the 1,000 year reign of Jesus and after the end of the tribulation.

In Daniel 9:24-27, the prophet Daniel wrote about a time period called the “70 weeks of years”. This period of time started with the command to rebuild Jerusalem and paused with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. This time period took 69 of the 70 weeks of Daniel which leaves a single 1 week period of years during which the tribulation will occur here on the earth.

**Questions:**

- \* Which of the seven churches do you most identify with?
- \* Which of the seven churches do you least identify with?
- \* Was there something in the study of these letters that the Holy Spirit revealed to you?
- \* What is the one thing that you would like to understand better at the end of our study in Revelation?

**Additional Study:**

Matthew 24

Daniel 9:24-27

Isaiah 53:5

1 Thessalonians 5

2 Thessalonians 2