

Title: A Look in the Mirror - Part I

Text: Revelation 2

Target: 3 Perspectives for us: Prophetic-Indicators of Culture, Practical-Insights toward the Church, Personal-Implications towards our Character

- I. **Ephesus: Lost your first love:** *"But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first." (Vs. 4)*
 - A. **Commanded to Reflect:** *"Remember therefore from where you have fallen" (Vs. 5a)*
 - B. **Challenged to Repent:** *"repent" (5b)*
 - C. **Convicted to Return:** *"and do the works you did at first." (Vs. 5c)*
 - D. **Called to be Resilient:** *"To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God." (Vs. 7)*
- II. **Smyrna: Discouraged, but not Defeated:** *"The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life." (Vs. 8)*
 - A. **Commended in Persecution:** *"I know your tribulation..." (Vs. 9a)*
 - B. **Comforted in Poverty:** *"and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan." (Vs. 9b)*
 - C. **Calling towards Prison:** *"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested." (10a)*
 - D. **Conviction to Persevere:** *"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life...the one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death." (10b-11b)*
- III. **Pergamum: Lovers of Worldliness:** *"The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword." (Vs. 12)*
 - A. **Commended for not being Ashamed:** *"I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells." (Vs. 13)*
 - B. **Confronted for being Affiliated:** *"I have a few things against you." (14a)*
 1. **Hold teaching of Balaam:** *"eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality." (14b)*
 2. **Hold teaching of Nicolaitans:** *"Therefore, repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth." (Vs. 15-16)*
 - C. **Comforted with Approval:** *"To the one who conquers I will give some..."*
 1. **Hidden Manna (Vs. 17)**
 2. **White Stone (Vs. 18)**
- IV. **Thyatira: Condoned False Teaching:** *"The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze." (Vs.18)*
 - A. **Commended for their Works:** *"I know your works, your love, and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first." (Vs. 19)*
 - B. **Confronted for tolerating Wickedness:** *"But I have this against you, and that you tolerate that woman **Jezebel** who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing..."*
 1. **Seducing My Servants (Vs. 20)**
 2. **Practice Sexual Immorality (Vs. 20)**

3. ***Eat food sacrificed to Idols (Vs 20)***
- C. **Challenged to be a Witness:** *“But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden.” (Vs. 24)*
 1. ***Hold Fast Until I Come (Vs. 25)***
 2. ***Keep My Works until the End (Vs. 26)***
 3. ***I will give him the morning Star (Vs 28)***

TAKEAWAY: *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Vs. 29)*