



SEVEN WORDS TO THE CHURCH TODAY

**Life Group
Material**

Bracken Ridge
BAPTIST CHURCH



WILLIAM SUBASH

REVELATION

LEARNING FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES

The world around us poses tough competition for our affections and attention. We can be easily distracted by the meaningless things. We may compromise our faith to fit in. And we can even hide who we are in Christ to avoid persecution. Sometimes we are just not sure where God fits in our lives.

How do we refocus our lives to put Jesus first?

In this 7-part series, pastor William Subash takes us through the seven letters written to seven churches in the book of Revelation. Each letter had a specific message and instruction to first century churches which still speak truth to us today. The caution and encouragement in each letter calls us to persevere in following Christ.

Accessing The Material

On the following pages you will find all of the information needed to go through the 7 Words Life Group Material. There are corresponding videos that can be accessed through our "RightNow Media" account with the church. If you don't have an account, simply go to rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/BrackenRidgeBaptistChurch. After creating an account simply search "Revelation: Learning From The 7 Churches" to access the 7 weeks or click [HERE](#) if viewing on your computer.

rightnow MEDIA

If you are unable for some reason to access the material through these different means, please simply email office@brbc.org.au or call 07 3261 5045.

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REVIEW

William Subash mentioned that Christians begin their walk with Christ with enthusiasm. It can be seen in the extraordinary deeds of their prayer life, study of the Word etc. What are the major changes that you noticed in your life after deciding to follow Christ?

Compared to then, what is the level of intensity in these changes now?

What would be the top 5 “loves” for you in your life currently? How can you ensure that Jesus remains at the top spot?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read Revelation 2:1–7. There was definite change in the way the church at Ephesus interacted with world when Jesus was their first love and when He was not. If the church today showed the enthusiasm that comes along with having Jesus first, what would be some signs of it?

Read Luke 14:26. What do you think Jesus meant when He said you should hate your father, mother, etc. to be His disciple?

Have you ever been in a situation where you had to choose between Jesus and any other person who is important to you? How did you resolve this situation?

Matthew 6:21. To what is Jesus comparing Himself to in this verse?

As Subash asked in the video, What does this message to the church at Ephesus mean for you today? Where is your treasure?

The church at Ephesus had an electric start that their works were noticed by the entire city and the gospel spread rapidly. However, everything stopped when they stopped having Jesus as their First Love and God sends this message as a warning to them. Today, how will we keep Jesus as our first love?

OPEN

Think about a friend or family relationship where you feel the other person's actions put the relationship in jeopardy. It could be a broken promise, a loose word, an action that betrayed all the good that they have done to keep the relationship healthy. How do you feel when you are treated this way?

A one-sided relationship can make us feel stuck and sometimes we may want to end it completely. We ask ourselves, does this person even care? Why does he/she seem good in some areas but completely lets me down in the other?

How often do we treat God the same way? Maybe during the initial days of our salvation we were conscious to be right before Him in all areas of our life. But with time and circumstances, we may have compromised on our choices—sometimes even unintentionally.

Listen to William Subash's talk on *Don't Compromise* about The Church at Pergamum where Jesus calls out the church for their inconsistencies in their walk with Him.

As you watch this session, write down how William Subash answers these questions.

Why did Jesus appreciate the church at Pergamum in spite of its negative power centres?

Which were the two areas in which the church at Pergamum compromised because of false teachers?

What are the five parts of repentance?

What are the three things we can learn from Jesus' message to the church at Pergamum?

WATCH

SESSION 3: *Don't Compromise: The Church at Pergamum* (8 minutes)

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read Luke 6:24. In His teachings, Jesus spoke the most about money. Why do you think Jesus did so? With reference to the message to the Church at Pergamum what does this mean for us?

Read I Kings 11:1–8. Solomon was a great King under whose reign the nation of Israel enjoyed the greatest prosperity. But this passage talks about the compromises he made which led to his and the nation's downfall. How do we make sure we don't slip the way Solomon did?

Read Romans 12:1–2. Just as the church at Pergamum was influenced by the lifestyle of the culture, the world today is pulling us to fit in its mold. How do you think Paul's instructions in this passage can be applied in our life?

Many times, the reason we compromise and not look at Jesus is because we unconsciously believe that He is not able to satisfy us. This is a dangerous lie which tells Jesus that He is not good enough for us.

To those who repented from this sin, Jesus promises 'manna', the heavenly food to satisfy them, something that the world can never provide us. When we only look to Him for our needs and not compromise with the world, He gives us what the world can never give us.

LIVE IT OUT

REFLECT: Look deeply into every aspect of your life to check if there are areas in which you have compromised as an individual, family or church. Ask God to reveal areas which might be hidden and ask Him for help to overcome the areas of our struggle.

MEMORISE: Memorise Rev 2: 17 to remind and encourage you that God is the one who can satisfy your innermost needs.

SHARE: Share with another follower of Christ the lessons you are learning from this study to encourage him/her.

REVIEW

What does Jesus's introduction of Himself mean to you?

William Subash points out that Jesus cautioned the church at Thyatira that He is responsible for their "economic welfare and political protection" and not Apollo Tyrimnaeus. Today, what does this mean for your life? How do I see Jesus as your provider and protector?

Subash also points out that Jesus was greatly appreciative of the group which did not compromise with the false teaching but showed fruit in their life. What is required of us to show this fruit of love, faith, service, endurance in our lives?

What is the danger of going after the prosperity gospel? How do you deal with that struggle?

As Subash points out, Jesus gave a chance for Jezebel to repent but she was unwilling. What does this tell you about the nature of Jesus and the nature of man? Subash gave some guidelines that we can use to identify false teachers. What other signs can you think of to check if a teacher is preaching about the cross or the prosperity gospel?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read Revelation 2:18–29. In verses 24–25, what does Jesus encourage those who haven't fallen to continue doing?

Read Mathew 6:25–34. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us to trust in Him for all our needs while we focus on His Kingdom. How does this truth free you from worrying about the necessities of our life? What does that look like?

Read II Corinthians 2:17. Paul mentions how he speaks before God with sincerity without any wrong motive. How can someone peddle God's Word?

The story of Salvation is the greatest love story that we know of. It shows the love of the Father who sent His son to die in our place so that we can be redeemed, restored and reestablished in our relationship with Him. More ever, He has given the Holy Spirit to dwell in us. To say that God did all this just to make our life better is immensely belittling the work of God. Today Jesus is encouraging us to stay in the purity of the gospel and use this life to share with our friends about Him to those do not know Him yet.

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

MEMORISE: Memorise Revelation 2:26 as a reminder that Jesus promises the reward to one who remains steadfast till the end.

PRAY: Pray and ask God for wisdom and discernment to show you when you are being taught something that does not align with the message of the Bible.

STUDY: Make time to study God's Word. One of the best ways to identify false teaching is when you understand God's Word accurately.

REVIEW

Subash observes that Jesus was not pleased with the church at Sardis because they “did not pose a challenge to society.” How does a follower of Christ pose a challenge to society?

Subash also shared that the church at Sardis had a lot of ‘externals’ like a nice building, a big team of clergies and a lot of Christian activities but no real life in them. What are some ‘externals’ that we need to be wary of in our times?

In Jesus’s assessment of the church, He saw them to be living an inoffensive Christian life. What does an inoffensive Christian life look like? And why do you think Jesus is offended by this?

In Jesus’s remedy for spiritual deadness, Subash mentions that “we are in danger when we feel comfortable and complacent.” Have you ever found yourself to be in this situation? How did you overcome this situation?

Subash mentions that a key highlight of this letter is that “believers cannot take God’s grace for granted.” In the context of exhibiting a deceptive appearance on the outside, how is God’s grace taken for granted?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read Revelation 3:7–13. Verses 7–8 talks about doors that God closes. In your life have there been avenues which have been closed when you wanted them to be opened and vice versa? What does this passage tell you about God and His involvement in your life?

Read Psalm 27:13–14. David talks with confidence about how God will come through for Him in spite of the challenges he faces. Is it easy for us to say the same statement in our life? What can you learn about from David's experience?

Read Mathew 5:54. As we focus on Christ and look towards the open door He has for us; we still have to deal with people who persecute us. What is Jesus' instruction to us regarding this?

The pain of rejection and someone shutting the doors in our life is very real. This may want us to question God, give up and start looking at alternate solutions for our problems.

Today Jesus is encouraging us. Just as how He was aware of every difficult circumstance in the lives of His followers in Philadelphia He is aware of your circumstance. He lovingly call us to persevere and He has opened a door, a path for us to keep moving. He promises us a crown and we get the greatest reward at the end. Jesus Himself! He is coming soon.

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

MEMORISE: Memorise Rev 3:12 to remind yourself when you go through trials that lay ahead of you, not to give up.

PRAY: As you thank God for His encouragement to you, pray asking for strength to persevere in the midst of your circumstance.

ENCOURAGE: Identify at least one friend who is facing similar circumstances in his/her life and encourage what you have learned from this lesson.

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read Rev 3:14–21. Among the seven churches, Jesus admonishes the church at Laodicea the most. In verses 19–21 He reveals why He corrects us and how to overcome this predicament. What does it tell you about the nature of Jesus? Can you think of some active steps you need to take to overcome lukewarmness?

Read Isaiah 29:13. These words by prophet Isaiah were spoken centuries before the letters in Revelation. What are the similarities in God’s assessment of His people in both the cases?

Based on this verse, what are the dangers and pitfalls that a believer should avoid?

Read Hebrews 13:8. The Bible says that God never changes and He is the same yesterday, today and forever. The only variable in this relationship is us. Can you come up with a system of daily tracking to check your heart with God?

Similar to losing the first love, becoming lukewarm towards Christ can be a gradual decline rather than a change that happens overnight. But ‘lukewarmness’ can be more dangerous as it gives us a feeling that we are fine in our relationship with God and that He is pleased with us. Today, Jesus is calling us to repentance.

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

MEMORISE: Memorise Revelation 3:20 as a reminder that Jesus is standing close by when you feel far away from Him.

PRAY: Pray with a friend that God will show you clearly His assessment of your relationship with Him so that you can set things right with Him.

ACT: Write three steps that you will take to overcome lukewarmness this week.



