

Satan's Attack on the Church

(Ephesians 6:10)

I. The Cold Church

- A. The church at Ephesus didn't tolerate sin. (Rev. 2:2)
- B. They had a biblical standard and they were doctrinally solid.
- C. They had one fatal flaw, verse 14, "thou hast left thy first love."
- D. They carried out a very biblical ministry, but there just wasn't any passion there.
- E. What do you do if that's true? (Rev. 2:5)
 - 1. Remember (How was it before your love grew cold?)
 - 2. Repent.
 - 3. Repeat (Do the first works.)
- F. If it's all become cold mechanical service and orthodoxy, and your passion has cooled, then you've left your first love.
- G. The church at Ephesus didn't remember, they didn't repent, and they didn't repeat, and so the church at Ephesus died.

II. The Compromising Church (Rev. 2:12-13)

- A. Pergamos was the center of the worship of Caesar.
- B. They had their own god named Escalapeus who was associated with healing.
- C. It was tough being a little group of Christians in the midst of a terrible pagan society. (Rev. 2:13)
- D. But you don't lower the standards even then because God doesn't change.

III The Corrupt Church (Rev. 2:18)

- A. Thyatira was the church that tolerated sin. (Rev. 2:18)
- B. They had embraced false teaching.
- C. God will judge His church. (Rev. 2:22)
- D. The believer is married to Christ, and fooling around with sin is spiritual adultery.

VI. The Comatose Church (Rev. 3:1)

- A. Sardis went out of existence because it was a degenerate, dead church.
- B. "Ichabod, God's glory's has departed," (1Sam. 4:21) had been written all over the church at Sardis.

V. The Counterfeit Church (Rev. 3:15)

- A. The Laodicean church was playing Christianity, the ultimate hypocrisy, which nauseates Christ. (Rev. 3:16)
- B. Most of what passes itself off as Christianity today falls into this category.
- C. It has all the trappings and all the paraphernalia, but it is apostate, and will be spewed out of the Lord's mouth.

VI. Conclusion

- A. If we will be aggressive to win people to Christ, we will not only survive, we will prosper.
- B. God help us to recognize where we are and act accordingly.