



# Acknowledgments

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Evangelism Ministries

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# Preparation Checklist

The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.

- Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
- Check to ensure the following materials are available:
  - PowerPoint presentations
  - Participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials:
  - Pens and/or pencils
  - Other material you want to use
- Check the classroom for:
  - Projector
  - Sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants
- Arrange the room so each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

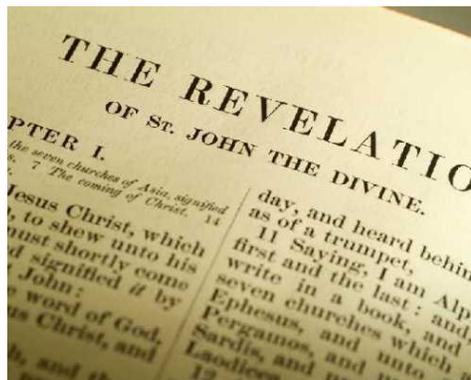
Notes:

# Ancient Evangelism Now

## Module-at-a-Glance

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page.

SECTION	TIME	PAGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
I. Introduction	5 mins.	P. 5	Introduce module, purpose, and objectives.
II. Lecture	20 mins.	P. 6	Presenter draws attention to the Revelation Churches for insights into local congregations.
III. Small Group Discussion	15 mins.	P. 8	Participants discuss the seven churches in order to integrate and apply the information gleaned from Rev. 2-3.
IV. Action Planning/Reporting	15 mins.	P. 8	Participants assess their current status as a church and consider how they might best change their own congregation to be blessed by God.
V. Module Wrap-Up	5 mins.	P. 8	Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
<b>Total Module Time: 60 mins.</b>			



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# I. Module Introduction

(5 minutes)

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes.

- Purpose
- Objectives
- “Fill-in-the-blanks” for the lecture
- Application exercises

***The purpose of this module is:***

***To view your congregation from God’s perspective in order to make the appropriate changes that would please Him.***

***The objectives are to:***

- ***Identify congregational strengths and affirm God’s ministry among us;***
- ***Admit to weaknesses preventing God freedom to use His people for outreach;***
- ***Ask God to refresh our people by His Spirit and to pursue God’s mission for our congregation.***

## Notes



Slide 2

Slide 3

## II. Lecture

(20 minutes)

1. The seven churches in Revelation 2-3 needed **RENEWAL**.
2. God knows these churches and **CONCLUDES** they must make some changes.
3. A **PATTERN** appears in these two chapters God uses to bring renewal:
  - a. Commendation—God **AFFIRMS** the strengths of the congregation.
  - b. Correction—God **NOTES** the changes needed.
  - c. Challenge—God **DIRECTS** the churches' attention to what they must do.

### Explore & Explain:

- A. Let's review God's interaction with these congregations.
- B. Assign six (6) groups or ask 6 individuals to read and respond to the following passages (see page 9 & 10):
  1. Revelation 2:1-7; 8-11; 12-17; 18-29;
  2. Revelation 3:1-6; 7-13.
- C. Ask groups or persons to answer three (3) questions about these passages:
  1. For what does God commend this congregation?
  2. What concerns does God express?
  3. What challenges is the congregation to tackle?

## Notes



Slide 4

Slide 5

## II. Lecture (cont.)

### Notes



### Examine:

- A. Revelation 3:14-22- Jesus **IDENTIFIES** Himself as the Amen—the One who tells the truth.
1. He is a **FAITHFUL** and true witness.
  2. He is also the **RULER** of God's creation.
- B. When Jesus **ADDRESSES** the church at Laodicea, He omits any words of commendation.
1. No mention is made of heretical influence.
  2. The **HEART** problem is far more serious than correct thinking.
- C. The Laodicean church (15-16) includes spiritual **MEDIOCRITY**; neither hot nor cold.
1. Jesus **REBUKES** them saying, "I am about to spit you out of my mouth" (17).
  2. The church's attitude is **ARROGANT**, "I am rich and do not need anything."
  3. Jesus says, "But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked."
  4. Because Jesus loves them He **DISCIPLINES** them (19).
  5. He **CALLS** for them to repent (19).
  6. He **INVITES** them into fellowship (20).
  7. He **PROMISES** victorious people the right to sit with Him on His throne (21).
  8. Then Jesus **SUGGESTS** the congregation listen to the Spirit (22).

Slide 6

Slide 7

Slide 8

Slide 9

### III. Small Group Discussion

(15 Minutes)

Discuss the following questions in your small group.

1. What strengths present in the churches of Revelation are active in your congregation?
2. What concerns can you identify in your church?
3. For what would God ask you to repent?
4. How does a congregation repent?
5. For what promises of God to the Revelation churches would you pray?
6. How does a congregation listen to the Spirit?

### IV. Action Planning/Reporting

(15 Minutes)

1. Conduct an eight week course on the seven churches.  
(A free curriculum resource can be found at <http://usacanadaregion.org/renewal-articles>.)
2. Take identified concerns in your local congregation to the church board.
3. Ask the leadership team to prayerfully consider what to do to improve your church.
4. Invite people to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

### V. Module Wrap-Up

(5 Minutes)

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

End the module by praying together. Based on your group, you may want the entire group to pray together with different people leading, or you may want to instruct the participants to pray in their teams.

#### Notes



Slide 10

Slide 11

## To the Church in Ephesus

<sup>2</sup> “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. <sup>2</sup> I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup> You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

<sup>4</sup> Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Consider how far 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. <sup>6</sup> But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

<sup>7</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

## To the Church in Smyrna

<sup>8</sup> “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. <sup>9</sup> I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. <sup>10</sup> 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 life as your victor’s crown.

<sup>11</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

## To the Church in Pergamum

<sup>12</sup> “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. <sup>13</sup> 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, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup> Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. <sup>16</sup> Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

<sup>17</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

## To the Church in Thyatira

<sup>18</sup> “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. <sup>19</sup> I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

<sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. <sup>22</sup> So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. <sup>23</sup> I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

<sup>24</sup> Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, ‘I will not impose any other burden on you, <sup>25</sup> except to hold on to what you have until I come.’

<sup>26</sup> To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— <sup>27</sup> that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father. <sup>28</sup> I will also give that one the morning star. <sup>29</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

# Revelation 3:1-13 New International Version (NIV)

## To the Church in Sardis

<sup>3</sup> “To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup> Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup> Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

<sup>4</sup> Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup> The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. <sup>6</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

## To the Church in Philadelphia

<sup>7</sup> “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. <sup>8</sup> I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup> I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. <sup>12</sup> The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

<sup>13</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.