

## What These Letters Teach:

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- ***Ephesus*** — That a church can be a working church, standing for the truth, yet if it doesn't have the motivation of love it is not pleasing to God
- ***Smyrna*** — Godliness will bring persecution
- ***Pergamos*** — we must have truth, stand for the truth and reject those who deny the truth
- ***Thyatira*** — the church must remain pure and reject those who compromise purity

# What “Kills” a Church?

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- Resting upon the past
- Alive during time of battle, but can't live with peace
  - There are two kinds of peace
    - Peace of conquest and achievement, which comes after a great effort into which a man has put everything that he is and has.
    - Peace of the man who has ceased to care, the peace of the man who has sunk into a comfortable lethargy, the peace of the man whose dreams are dead and whose mind is asleep, the peace of evasion and escape.

# What “Kills” a Church?

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- Constant Bickering
  - But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned. (**Titus 3:9-11**)

# What “Kills” a Church?

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- Neglect of:
  - **Our Bible classes** (Questions by Connie Adams)
    - Is the Bible being taught?
    - Are workbooks being abused?
    - Is the approach so tedious that the student becomes lost in the forest?
    - Is the whole counsel of God being taught?
    - What is the evangelistic thrust of these classes?
    - Are there regularly scheduled teachers meetings where elders can monitor what is taking place and where teachers can sharpen their skills?

# What “Kills” a Church?

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- Neglect of:
  - Preaching
  - Worship
  - Association
- Negativism

# What “Kills” a Church?

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- Selfishness
  - What makes the Dead Sea dead?  
Everything comes in, nothing goes out.
- Misdirection or no direction
  - Jesus said that the world is wiser...
- Conformity to the world (1 Jno. 2:15; Jas. 4:4)

# **What The Lord Commands:**

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- **Be Watchful (v. 2)**
- **Strengthen (v. 2)**
- **Remember: HOW You Received and Heard (v. 3)**
- **“Hold Fast and Repent” (v. 3)**

## **Blessings for those Who Have Life**

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- **Walk with Him in White (3:4)**
- **He will not blot out our name from the book of life (3:5)**
- **He will confess our name before the father (3:5)**