

You've Got Mail
Revelation Series #2
Revelation 2 & 3

Introduction: Let's begin by reading Revelation 2: 1-7 from the NIV.

To the Church in Ephesus 2 "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. 2 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. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name and have not grown weary.

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

7 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. (NIV)

LET'S PRAY

Isn't it interesting that Jesus' first love letter goes out to a church that had lost its first love?

STORY: In 2017 Allen Cook and his daughter Melissa were renovating her house in Westfield, New Jersey, when they found a crack in one of the ceilings. What they discovered was an envelope that was old and yellow. It had never been opened.

Dated May 4 of 1945, the typed letter was written by a woman named Virginia to her husband, Rolf Christoffersen, who was a sailor in the Norwegian navy, and she was talking about the baby she was going to have.

The envelope was marked "return to sender" and never found its way to her husband – until 2017. Allen's daughter used the Internet to find the phone

number of someone named Rolf Christoffersen and gave him a call, leading her to his son in Santa Barbara, California.

The younger Christoffersen wasn't yet born when his mother Virginia wrote the letter, but her words to his father touched his heart as she said...

"I love you Rolf, as I love the warm sun, and that is what you are for my life, the sun about which everything else revolves for me."

Christoffersen immediately called his father, who was still alive and 96 years old at the time and read the letter to him over the phone. Seventy-two years later, her words were finally heard by her husband. Great story.

Transition: You know, sometimes I feel bad for young people, who have grown up tech savvy, with a smart phone in your hand, computer on your lap, and communicate mostly through email, text, Instagram, or whatever.

You will never know what it was like to get a handwritten love letter like I used to get from Nancy. **Explain**

What we are about to read in Revelation are love letters from Jesus to His future bride. And what we find are words of admiration and words of admonition. Words of gratitude and words of caution. The Groom encourages His fiancée, but He also challenges her. Through it all, the love Jesus feels for His church can never be questioned. We are His, and He is ours.

So... this is week number two in our series on the book of Revelation. In chapter one we found out that Revelation was written by John the Apostle-the disciple of Jesus. He was in exile on the island of Patmos around 95AD, and he had this incredible vision of Jesus.

Revelation is such an amazing book. It is laid out for us in chapter 1, verse 19, when Jesus tells John, **"Write, therefore, what you have seen [chapter 1], what is now [chapters 2&3] and what will take place later [chapters 4-22]."**

Some don't take Revelation seriously because they just think it is just an allegory, but there were 7 real churches at that time, with 7 real pastors, and 7 real congregations. And the Lord lists those for us in chapter 1, verse 11; **"Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."**

I can tell you that it was a BIG deal to those churches in Asia Minor to get this letter from Jesus, and it better be a BIG deal for us, because in these letters we find the Lord lovingly, and firmly speaking to His Church...TODAY!

Now I want you to see these churches on a map ([show map](#))

All these churches are on a circular road. You can still go to these places if you want to take a trip to Turkey and see the ruins. Before Jesus tells us about the things that are yet to come, He tells us about the things that are happening in these churches. And I believe there are good reasons for that.

Edward Myers wrote a book about Revelation, and he says,

“Before there is any mention of apocalypse on the unbelieving world, it first calls the churches to repentance. Judgment must begin in the house of the Lord.” If the church is not a proper representation of Jesus, how can we influence the world for Christ?

How can Jesus judge a lost world that has only seen a watered-down or perverted Gospel?

Every letter follows a similar outline: There is...

1. A personal greeting... **To the angel of the church in ...
Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis,
Philadelphia, Laodicea**
2. A Characteristic of Jesus mentioned: **These are the words
of the one who ...**
 - Holds seven stars
 - Is the First and the Last
 - Has a double-edged sword
 - Has eyes like blazing fire
 - Holds the seven spirits and the seven stars
 - Holds the key of David
 - Is the Amen, the faithful and true witness
3. An Observation about the condition of the church: **I know
your...**

Hard work & perseverance
Afflictions & poverty
Address & tenacity
Love, Faith, service, perseverance
Deeds
Fatigue and faithfulness
Deeds

4. A Corrective for unfaithful churches: **Yet/Nevertheless.**

You have forsaken your first love
Some hold to false teaching
Some pursue sexual immorality
You have unfinished business to do
You are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind

4. Invitation to have ears to hear that lead to repentance and a Promised Reward: **If you remain steadfast, you'll ...**

Inherit the paradise of God
Be spared the second death
Receive a new name
Receive the morning star
Be dressed in white and be written in the Book of Life
Be a pillar in the temple
Reign with Me.

I've taught a series on these seven churches before with seven individual sermons. But today I'm only going to do one message, covering all the churches, but it may take seven hours...**just kidding.**

Now it's interesting, that of these seven churches, there are only TWO that receive nothing but commendation. No correction, no rebuke...just praise. And those were the churches in Smyrna [2nd church] and Philadelphia [6th church].

I. **Smyrna was the largest city in Asia Minor. It had a fine harbor and was the political center of the region.**

The name Smyrna finds its derivation in the word myrrh, an embalming fluid that was one of this city's chief exports. It was also one of the three gifts brought to Jesus by the wise men from the East.

The church in Smyrna was suffering. The persecution that it was under was great.

Revelation 2:9-11 says, "These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. 9 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. 10 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." 11 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. (NIV).

The Groom saw the suffering of His bride for His name's sake. He commended this church for its faithfulness amid great persecution and poverty, but He did not give Smyrna a "nevertheless" warning. There was no need.

What He also didn't add was "Don't worry, I'll protect you from the suffering" or "It's okay, I won't let them harm you." Instead, He said, "**Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**"

I hear so many Christians talking about the suffering they are going through because they can't meet when they want or because the government is wanting them to wear masks or take shots. While I don't believe that it is the government's position to demand any of these things, this is not persecution!

I'm not saying we never suffer as a Christian, but if we want to understand persecution, we need to talk to Christians from South Sudan or northern Nigeria or Iran or North Korea or China. They will tell you about what true suffering is. They will also tell you how God has walked with them through the pain and loss.

Smyrna had a famous bishop; his name was Polycarp. He was martyred for his faith in 155 AD. When they were going to execute him, he was 86 years

old and they didn't want to kill him for his faith, they said...just deny Christ. He had this famous testimony...**"for 86 years I have served Him, and He has never done me any wrong...how can I now blaspheme my King and Savior?** He chose death.

II. The church in Philadelphia, gets no rebuke from the Lord either. It was the church of evangelism and missionary endeavors, the church of the Open Door.

Speaking of Doors, did you hear the story about a guy who happened to be visiting a friend who took him to an old one-room church building in the backwoods of Arkansas. He didn't realize what kind of church it was until the minister started pulling rattlesnakes out of a burlap bag & passing them up one aisle & down the other. The man had never seen anything like this before, AND he certainly wasn't interested in handling a snake!

Frantically, he began turning one way & then another, looking for a way out. But the only exit was up past where the preacher was passing out the snakes.

Turning to his friend, he asked, "Where is the back door? The man answered, "We ain't got one." He said, "Where would you like one?"

The church at Philadelphia; as we begin reading in verse 7, we're about to discover that we have a door-opening God! He opens doors that no one shuts and shuts doors that no one can open!

Revelation 3:7-13 says, "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. 8 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. 9 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. 10 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. 11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 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. 13 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (NIV)

The word "door" appears in the Bible, in one form or the other, 263 times. While the word "door" in the Bible is used to speak of a literal door, there are many places where "doors" are used symbolically.

- In John 10:9 Jesus called Himself "the Door" – Salvation
- Rev. 4:1 speaks of a "door" being opened in the heavens
- Rev. 3:20 pictures Jesus standing at the "door" and knocking –
- Matt. 7:7-8 speaks of answered prayer as the opening of a "door" -
- Psa. 84:10 tells us that the Psalmist would rather be a "doorkeeper" in the house of God than anything else in the world

Of all the churches in Asia Minor, THIS is the church most of us would join!

Now this phrase "key of David," was used by the Prophet Isaiah in the 22nd chapter. The Assyrian armies were on the march against Israel. Verses 12-13 say, "And in that day the LORD GOD of hosts called for weeping and for mourning, for baldness and for girding with sackcloth. But instead, joy and gladness, slaying oxen and killing sheep, eating meat, and drinking wine; Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

A man named Shebna, the treasurer of the palace, led them to do that. God tells him in verse 19, "I will drive you out of your office and from your position." God replaced Shebna, treasurer of the palace with a man named Eliakim; and we read in verse 22 **"so he shall open and no one shall shut; and he shall shut, and no one shall open."** The only way a person could get into the King's house was through Eliakim; for He had been given the "key of the house of David," by God!

Now when Jesus described Himself to the church at Philadelphia in Revelation 3:7 as "He who has the key of David," their minds raced to Isaiah 22. Just as God had given Eliakim "the key to the house of David," **Christ is our door to salvation.**

The apostle Paul moved from place to place to spread the gospel, he asked others to intercede for him so that God would open new doors of ministry:

In Colossians 4:2-4, Paul says, ***“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.” (NIV)***

This was the type of doorway that was wide open for Philadelphia. Because of its location, this church was at the entrance to the kingdoms of Lydia, Mysia, and Phrygia. Any merchants traveling to and from these locations had to pass through the city. This gave the church at Philadelphia a great opportunity to reach many people across the Roman Empire with the gospel.

This should be a prayer for all of us. ***“Lord, open a door of opportunity for me to love others and share the truth of Your gospel.”***

So, for Smyrna and Philadelphia there was only commendation. No correction, no rebuke...just praise. All seven churches speak to us today. And every letter has the same ending... ***“to him who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”***

God wants to speak to our hearts today. Will you have an open heart to receive what the Spirit is saying, **because I want you to notice with me four warnings from these seven love letters.**

1. Be aware of losing your first love and your fire for Jesus

The first letter in Revelation, chapter 2 verse one begins, ***“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. 2 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. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name and have not grown weary.***

It's all sounding good through verse 3. Ephesus was a church that Paul founded and was there 3 years. It was a key place, built on the sound doctrine of Paul and later by Timothy and Apollos, and eventually John the revelator pastored there.

This was the mother church of all the other churches. You go to Ephesus; it was huge with a stadium that held 25,000 people representing 10% of population. It was a great place for evangelism. But then we get to verse 4.

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first

It was a great church, but it had lost its first love and its fire for the Lord. When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, He said, **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, your mind, your soul, and your strength.”**

If you're not doing that, something is off in your life. Do you remember the days you were on fire for the Lord, you couldn't wait to get to church, go to bible study, attend conferences, or camp meetings, read the bible?

You were on fire for the Lord. But something happened, and it may be what Robert Robinson meant in his song, **The Fount of Many Blessings**, when he wrote that verse, **Prone to wander, Lord I feel it...Prone to leave the God I love...Here's my heart, oh take and seal it...Seal it for Thy courts above**

And that's what the Lord said; they had left their first love. It's a slow fade. Other things take our eyes off Jesus. When something else becomes our first love, we are in a bad place.

The question for us today: Is Jesus really #1 in your life. Or do other things get you excited. Maybe you have left your first love.

Story of Peter...the Lord has an opportunity to speak to Peter. Jesus asks Peter 3 questions. He doesn't ask...do you serve me...are you faithful...do you toil for me...He asks three times...**Do you love me?** Because that's the most important thing. **What good is your service, your toil, your faithfulness, your Christian service, if you don't love the Lord?**

2. Be aware of the Satan's Opposition and his false doctrine

Satan is mentioned in these letters five times. He's mentioned as coming against Smyrna, coming against Pergamum twice, Thyatira, and Philadelphia. When the Lord talks to the churches He talks about Satan over and over again.

And to Pergamum especially, he mentions Satan twice. Look at Revelation, chapter 2, verse 13; **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.

It says Pergamum was where Satan dwelt. The throne of Satan was there, and you say, what was that? Pergamum was the center of emperor worship, and they had a huge altar there to Zeus.

Many commentators have suggested that the continuous fires of the sacrifice, visible from the city 1,000 ft. below, are what the author of Revelation referred to as "The Throne of Satan"—although there are other interpretations.

There was much pagan worship there. The Lord is saying, the devil is at work, and we are foolish if we forget he is out to steal, kill, and destroy. The devil roams about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour and we need to be beware of the devil and his false doctrine.

Devil is out to do three things, **persecute** the church, **infiltrate** the church, and **pervert** the gospel.

1. **Persecution** doesn't always work well. In Acts 8:1 persecution led to the church being scattered and the gospel being spread far and wide.

Verse 14 says, ***"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."***

2. The teaching of Balaam reminds us of how Satan **infiltrates** the church.

There were three problems in this church: (1) the doctrine of Balaam, (2) idolatry, and (3) immorality. Many only know Balaam as the guy whose donkey had a few choice words for him (Numbers 22:27-30), but he was a very important and destructive figure for the Israelites.

Balak, the king of Moab, hired Balaam the prophet to curse the wandering nation. But Balaam refused to curse God's people. Yet although the prophet would not curse the Israelites, he had a Plan B to bring them down. He thought, I can't curse them, but I can corrupt them. He taught King Balak to put forth a stumbling block encouraging the people to eat what was sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality.

It didn't take much to lead them astray. All it took was bringing in some beautiful foreign women who said, "You know, I worship my idols with sex.

Anyone want to worship with me?" Suddenly, the men of Israel turned to foreign gods.

3. Jesus also condemned them for holding to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. It is very possible that the founder of this gnostic sect was Nicholas of Antioch, a leader in the early church and one of seven specially designated by the disciples to serve (Acts 6:5-6).

Two early church fathers, Irenaeus, and Clement of Alexandria, point to Nicholas as the founder of this heresy, and said that he had "departed from sound doctrine. Part of that was the belief that the flesh isn't real, so whatever you do with your body is ok because it doesn't count as sin.

This belief isn't much different than what we are finding in the church today. Abortion is becoming more accepted within many denominations. Heterosexual and homosexual immorality are rampant. Recently, a transgender person was installed as a bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The trend is moving far away from Scripture. If you remain faithful to biblical morality, you will soon find yourself the minority in the church.

In Acts 13 Paul is in Cyprus and it says, ***"There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, 7 who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. 9 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, 10 "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?"*** (NIV)

Devil tries to make crooked the strait ways of the Lord. Tries to make the gospel confusing. How do I get to heaven? Now can I be sure of my salvation?

How do you know when Satan is at work in the church, his calling card is this, compromise, and licentious [having a license to sin, unbridled immorality].

- Once saved, always saved? Maybe you've never really been saved if you want to wallow in the mud like a hog or return to vomit like a dog.
- When I think of areas where it's tempting for the church to compromise, this is at the top of the list. Because we don't want to

seem judgmental, right? We hesitate to say that sex was intended to only be enjoyed within a marriage covenant, because we don't want to be mocked as clueless and regressive. We think twice before saying that a marriage covenant means a lifelong commitment between a man and a woman, because we don't want to be labeled as hateful. It is so tempting to cave in this area.

- Hyper-grace Jesus came in the fullness of grace and truth. A lot of grace, little truth. Jude 1:4
- You talk about Jesus, but you do all this

3. Be aware of spiritual apathy and apostasy

Now you get to the church in Thyatira, and they are tolerating a woman named Jezebel encouraging people in immorality, and then from there to Sardis and the bible says...they think they are alive, but dead. Lord said you need to wake up, you are apathetic (indifferent), lethargic (sleepy) **story of church with archway** – We preach Christ crucified...we preach Christ...we preach...we

We live in a time where church after church is bailing out on the truth. You can't elevate grace and love and diminish truth. I did it my way, that's the theme song of hell. We must do things God's way.

The last church mentioned is in Laodicea and it's making the Lord sick. Located nine-and-a-half miles northwest of Colossae, Laodicea was the Colossians' richer, more popular sister city. Although Paul never visited the churches in either Laodicea or Colossae, he deemed both worthy of a letter from him.

High above Laodicea are mountains capped with sparkling white snow. Below flows a hot-water spring that rises out of the earth. As the snow melts and ice-cold water cascades down the mountain, the flow merges with the hot springs. The result? A lukewarm river.

The Laodicean church took on the spiritual characteristic of their geography. Jesus wrote to them: ***I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*** (Rev. 3:15-16; NIV).

That graphic visual clearly communicates the Lord's frustration with casual Christians. When Jesus talked about discipleship, He set the standard high: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 16:24-25).

They were a bunch of lukewarm Sunday morning benchwarmers. G. Campbell Morgan said, "Lukewarm worship is the worst blasphemy you can commit."

Be aware of losing your first love and fire for the Lord...Be aware of Satan's opposition and false doctrine...Be aware of spiritual apathy and apostasy, AND

4. Be aware of the need for repentance

Eight times in these letters to the church, the Lord tells them they need to repent...twice to Ephesus, three times to Thyatira, Jesus said in Rev. 2 of Jezebel, "***I gave her time to repent.***" God is longsuffering and takes no joy in discipline. He would much rather we turn to Him on our own accord.

Repentance – John the Baptist preached it, Jesus preached it, Paul preached it

We come to Christ through repentance. We live in close fellowship with the Lord and each other by repentance.

Rev. 2:5 says, "Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first." Revelation 3:2 goes on to say, "Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die." And Revelation 2:20 says, "Nevertheless ... you tolerate sexual immorality and the food sacrificed to idols."

Key Take Away: Revelation 2-3 reminds us of two statements can be true at the same time. She's a great athlete and an unreliable friend. He's a shrewd businessman and an obnoxious leader. He's a gifted preacher and an abusive husband. She's an inspiring leader and manipulative parent.

So... for each of the seven churches, Jesus either sees unfaithfulness or faithfulness, or in some cases, a combination of both in the same church.

To the Faithful, Jesus says You can expect a future rapture

Verse 10, "**Because you have kept My command to persevere, I ALSO WILL keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**"

Jesus doesn't say, "I will keep you THROUGH the hour of trial," but rather, "I will keep you FROM the hour of trial." And to make it even clearer, the Greek word He used here that's translated "from" is which literally means "out of." "I will keep you OUT OF the hour of trial."

Jesus is describing what happened to Enoch, not Noah. Noah was preserved, but Enoch was evacuated.

The Faithful can expect future Rest

Verse 12, "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more." This word "overcomes" is the Greek word where we get the word Nike. Nike describes the winner! The victor!

Jesus says that He will make all us His a "pillar in the temple, and he shall go out no more." Which speaks of safety, security, and serenity. It's the picture of what Jesus said in Matthew 11.28, "**Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**"

To the Unfaithful, he says: "Open your door." Revelation 3:19-20, I believe this is what Jesus says to all the unfaithful: **19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. Those are Jesus' words to us when we're being unfaithful.**

Jesus says, "Open your door." He won't break it down. He won't force us to repent. This door only opens from one side. We must choose.

Proverbs 5:21 reminds us, "**For your ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all your paths.**"

Jesus calls out our wrong beliefs and wrong behavior. He sees what we watch. He knows what we do. He understands what we think.

The good news: the call to **repentance** is born out of deep love and the desire Jesus has to see us, His bride to flourish. Repentance is a response to

conviction that results in transformation, not shame that leads to disconnection.

Romans 2:4 says, ***“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?”***

So where is it that Jesus is calling us to repent? As individuals? As the church?

Where have we fallen? Where are we sleeping? What are we tolerating in our life?

Is there anything in my life that I’m keeping in the shadows? Is there anything I worship that isn’t Jesus?

The Good News: Everyone gets a word to overcome. Overcomers are the people who repent and get on track with God. **By the way, I’m not an overcomer because of how great I am, but because of how great God is.**

In overcoming we become Victorious over doubt, over fear, over self, over temptation. Jesus gives us spiritual victory, not military or political conquest. In the face of persecution, Jesus asks us to remain steadfast in hope and love.

To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life.

The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna.

To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations...They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.

To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Paul summed it up best in 1 Corinthians 2.9, ***“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” He who has an ear, let him hear.***