

Stay & Study “How Do I Study My Bible” For Women  
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# The Bible and History

## Church History (seen in Revelation 2,3 and the Pauline Epistles and the Kingdom Parables)

The Bible and History  
3rd Year Class Syllabus  
Prepared and Presented by  
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Research the Scriptures – Proclaim the Scriptures  
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A Ministry of Donn & Sue Williams

### Presuppositions

- A presupposition is a condition that you assume and accept as true.
- A presupposition is not necessarily logically proven.
- A presupposition requires FAITH.
- Your presuppositions will determine your worldview.
- Your worldview attempts to answer life’s basic questions:
  - 1) Who am I?
  - 2) Why am I here?
  - 3) Where did I come from?
  - 4) Where am I going?
- Only two possible basic worldviews:
  - 1) Everything is a result of an accident. (Chuck Missler’s sarcastic definition of the big bang: First there was nothing and then it exploded! – Unless you accept eternal matter/energy)
  - 2) Everything is a result of the deliberate design of an intelligent creator.
- My Basic Worldview Presuppositions:
  - 1) God is.
  - 2) God is Absolute Truth.
  - 3) God has Revealed Himself in His Written Word (Scripture) and His Living Word (God the Son, Jesus Christ).
  - 4) God is the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe.

## Our Approach to Theology

- Dispensational
- Prophetic (or Futurist) view of Revelation
- Pre-Millennial and Pre-Tribulation view of the Rapture of the Church
- Belief in a literal Kingdom where Jesus Christ is King. It is challenged by Satan's final revolt at the end of 1000 years. Satan is defeated and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ continues forever in a New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem.

## The Kingdom throughout Church History

### Initial Thoughts

- The Law of Christ as taught in "The Sermon on the Mount" dictates that we are called to an extremely high and perfect standard, humanly impossible to attain. It must exceed the best of the strictest conservatives, and be as perfect as God Himself.
- We are clearly taught that we cannot serve two masters, so the law of Christ must preside in every aspect of our lives.
- So then, here is the hard question: **Can a nation survive in the world today, living by these principles?**
- Has it been tried? Was it successful?
- To find the answers, we must look back into the history of the church.
- To begin, let us consider what I believe is a prophetic outline of the church in the second and third chapters in the book of Revelation. If I am correct, most of this prophesy is now history.

### Basic Chronology of Revelation

Chapters 1 – 3	The Church Age	
	<i>(Dispensation of Grace)</i>	<i>Unknown Time</i>
Chapters 4 – 19	The Time of Judgment	
	<i>(The Tribulation Period)</i>	<i>7 Years</i>
Chapter 20	The Kingdom Age (Millennium)	
	<i>(The Dispensation of the Kingdom)</i>	<i>1000 Years</i>
Chapters 21, 22	The Eternal Age	
	<i>(Eternity Future)</i>	<i>Endless Time</i>

## Detailed Chronology of Revelation 1 to 3

Chapter 1	The Church Age
Introduction	
Chapter 2	The Church Age
<i>Ephesus; Smyrna; Pergamos; Thyatira</i>	
Chapter 3	The Church Age
<i>Sardis; Philadelphia; Laodicea</i>	

## Considerations of the Seven Churches

- These were actual historic churches (But why these seven?)
- The traits can be found in a number of churches from any period of church history.
- To one degree or another, traces of these traits can likely be found in any given church in any given era.
- There is a personal application for in each letter.
- There MAY be a prophetic profile of church history found in the particular choices of church and the particular order.



## Prophetic Profile

- Ephesus – The Apostolic Church – A.D. 30 – 100 (160)
- Smyrna – The Persecuted Church – A.D. 100 (160) – 312
- Pergamos – The Married Church – A.D. 312 – 600
- Thyatira – The Medieval Church – A.D. 600 - 1520
- Sardis – Denominational Church – A.D. 1520 - 1750
- Philadelphia – The Missionary Church – A.D. 1750 - 1900
- Laodicea – Apostate Church – A.D. 1900 – 2015+

## The Seven Kingdom Parables – Matthew 13

- The Four Soils (*Matthew 13:3-9;18-23*)
- Tares and Wheat (*Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43*)
- Mustard Seed (*Matthew 13:31-32*)
- Woman and Leaven (*Matthew 13:33*)
- Treasure in the Field (*Matthew 13:44*)
- Pearl of Great Price (*Matthew 13:45-46*)
- Dragnet (*Matthew 13:47-50*)

## Relation of the Seven Kingdom Parables to the Seven Churches

- Ephesus – The Sower and Four Soils
- Smyrna – The Tares and the Wheat
- Pergamos – The Mustard Seed
- Thyatira – The Woman and the Leaven
- Sardis – The Treasure in the Field
- Philadelphia – The Pearl of Great Price
- Laodicea – The Dragnet

## Paul's Epistles to Seven Churches

Paul wrote 13 letters. Three of them are 1st & 2nds, leaving 10 addressees, three of which are pastors:  
Paul also wrote to seven churches.

$$\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ - \quad 3 \\ \hline 10 \\ - \quad 3 \\ \hline 7 \end{array}$$

## Relation of Jesus's Epistles to the Seven Churches to the Seven Pauline Epistles to Churches

<u>Jesus</u>	<u>Paul</u>
• Ephesus –	Ephesians
• Smyrna –	Philippians
• Pergamos –	Corinthians
• Thyatira –	Galatians
• Sardis –	Romans
• Philadelphia –	Thessalonians
• Laodicea –	Colossians

### Personal Application

• Ephesus	Neglected Priorities.
• Smyrna	Satanic Opposition.
• Pergamos	Spiritual Compromise.
• Thyatira	Pagan Practices.
• Sardis	Watchfulness, Diligence.
• Philadelphia	Loyal Ambassadorship.
• Laodicea	Materialistic Apostasy

### Recap: Questions to consider:

- Can we create a "Christian" Nation?
- Have there been Christian nations in the past?
- Do we live in a Christian nation?
- Did we start as a Christian nation and then become secular?
- Is a Christian nation even possible?

Note: Preparation for this seminar has included research from studies with Koinonia House (<http://www.khouse.org>); Scroll Publishing Co., The Myth of Christian America by David Bercot (<http://www.scrollpublishing.com>); and, of course, many volumes and notes of Commentaries and Church History from my personal library.