

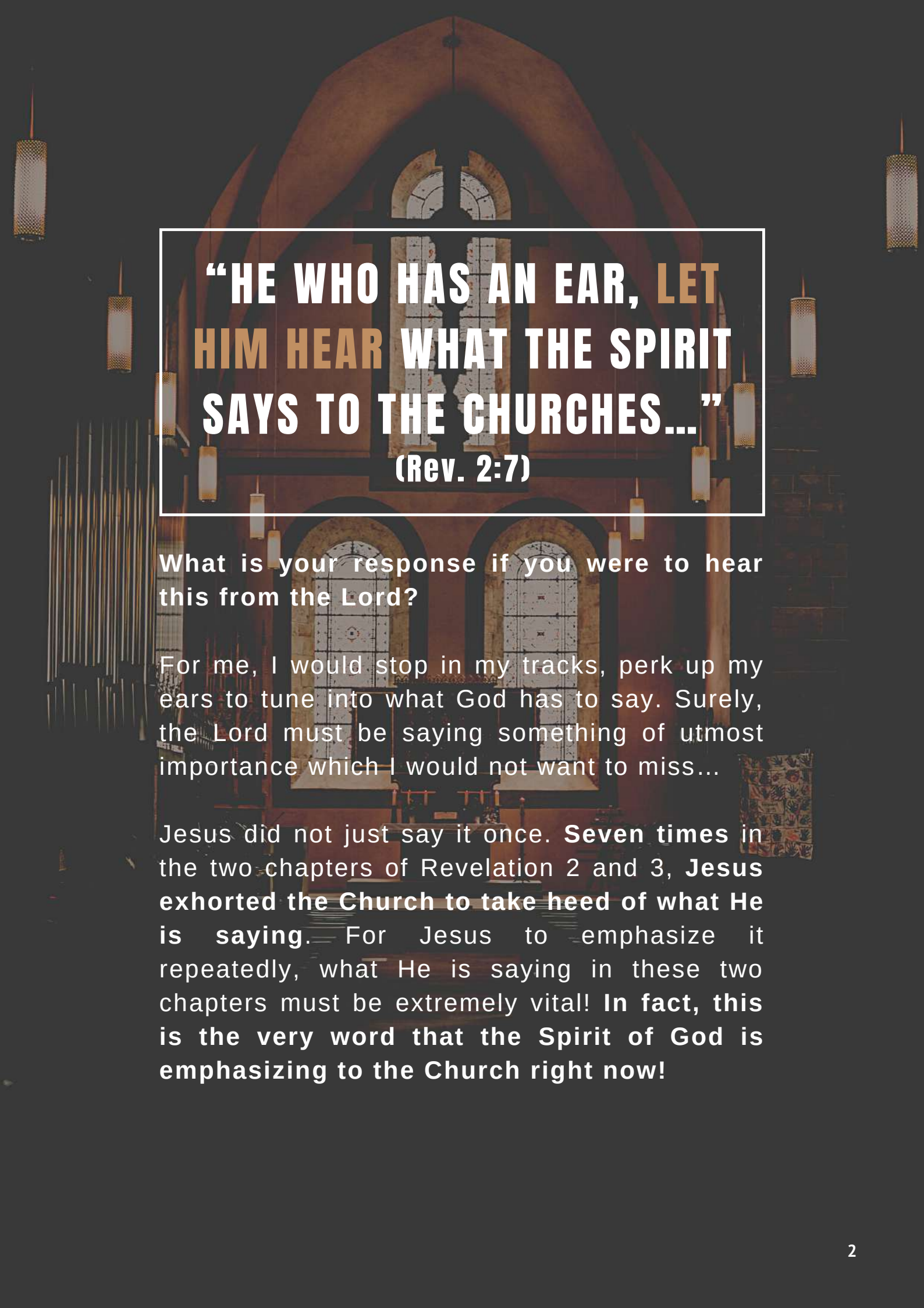
UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 10

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SEVEN LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

PART 1



IHOP - ONE THING MINISTRIES



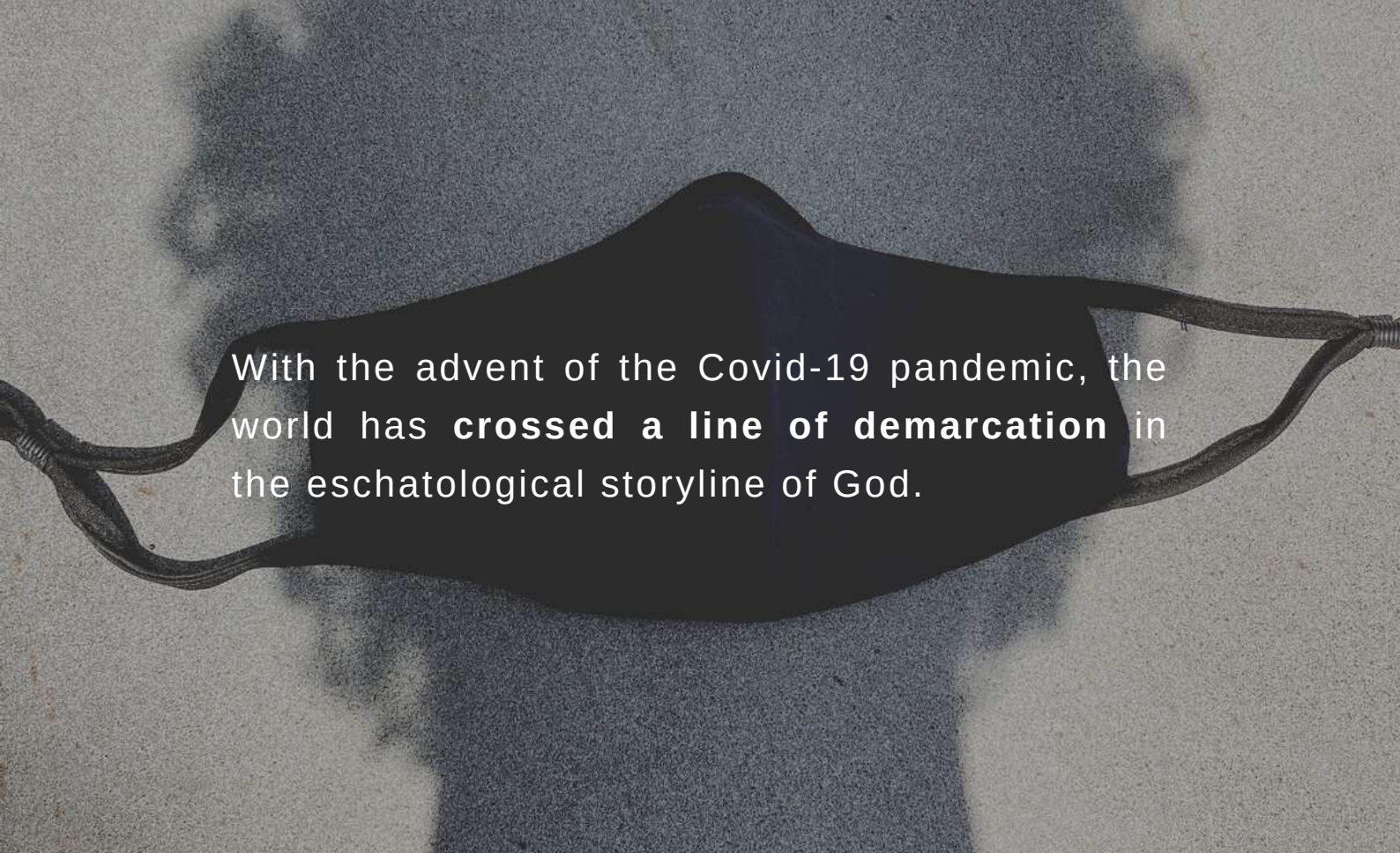
“HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES...”

(Rev. 2:7)

What is your response if you were to hear this from the Lord?

For me, I would stop in my tracks, perk up my ears to tune into what God has to say. Surely, the Lord must be saying something of utmost importance which I would not want to miss...

Jesus did not just say it once. **Seven times** in the two chapters of Revelation 2 and 3, **Jesus exhorted the Church to take heed of what He is saying.** For Jesus to emphasize it repeatedly, what He is saying in these two chapters must be extremely vital! **In fact, this is the very word that the Spirit of God is emphasizing to the Church right now!**

A black surgical mask is hanging on a wall, with its straps visible. The mask is the central focus of the top half of the page.

With the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, the world has **crossed a line of demarcation** in the eschatological storyline of God.

In the natural, we see massive and unprecedented changes in every sphere, be it social, political, economic, how we live, how we work, etc. **Spiritually, we have stepped into a higher level of intensity than before. There has been a shift and an acceleration. Greater storms and challenges are on the horizon.**

**THE NEXT TEN YEARS WILL BE A
*CRITICAL SEASON
OF PREPARATION*
FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

Revelation 2 and 3, which consist of the seven letters to the seven churches in the time of John, are one of the most important passages of Scripture that God is using to prepare His Church to be a mature Bride. They are like Spirit-inspired blueprints on how to build the Church so that we can become the kind of people that He is looking for. This is especially vital for the End-Time Church.



THERE ARE THREE REASONS WHY WE NEED TO STUDY THESE TWO CHAPTERS:

1

They give us the clearest picture of what Jesus wants and what He is looking for in His End-Time Church.

There are seven specific areas of spiritual maturity Jesus is looking for:



- a. **Church of Ephesus** — Embracing First Love for Jesus.
- b. **Church of Smyrna** — Remaining Faithful and Fearless until the end.
- c. **Church of Pergamos** — Loving the Truth and Enduring Sound Doctrine.
- d. **Church of Thyatira** — Perfecting Holiness in the Fear of the Lord, Resisting Immorality and Compromise.
- e. **Church of Sardis** — Being Real, Deep, and Authentic.
- f. **Church of Philadelphia** — Persevering in Obedience even when we are weak.
- g. **Church of Laodicea** — Being Zealous for Jesus and Resisting Lukewarmness.

These are seven areas that God wants and insists on, that we have to intentionally cultivate and grow in.





2

They give us clear and detailed information concerning what Jesus wants.

These two chapters tell us clearly what Jesus approves and disapproves of. At the end of the day, we need to know what really matters to God, and then to build our life and ministry on these things (1 Cor. 3:10-15).

3

It tells us what an overcoming Church looks like. It also gives us clear instructions on **how to prepare ourselves to be overcomers.**

How do we approach the study of Revelation 2 and 3? The key is to know the heart of Jesus — what does Jesus want and how do I apply the truth. One of the best ways to study these two chapters is through the **eight common elements** found in each of the letters.

THE EIGHT COMMON ELEMENTS ARE:

1

The name, the location of the church and her spiritual condition.

It is important to gain information regarding the situation that each of the churches was facing at the time of John, whether politically, economically or spiritually. Jesus strategically selected these seven churches, knowing that **they would give prophetic insight into the spiritual condition of the Church, especially the Church at the End of the Age.**

Let us run through briefly:



EPHESUS

The church in Ephesus was a revival centre during her time. But they had an issue — **they had lost their first love for Jesus.**

SMYRNA

The church in Smyrna was one that **stayed faithful in the midst of persecution and suffering.** They were a poor church and were one of the smallest among the seven churches, but they were rich in the eyes of God.

PERGAMOS

The church in Pergamos was **full of compromises, idolatry and immorality.** This was primarily due to wrong teaching.

THYATIRA

The church in Thyatira was a growing church. But they were a **corrupted church, full of immorality.**

SARDIS

The church in Sardis was one of the largest at that time. It appeared to be the “most happening” church, but **it was dead in the eyes of God.**

PHILADELPHIA

The church in Philadelphia was a **faithful and obedient church.**

LAODICEA

The church in Laodicea was a **rich but lukewarm church.**





2

Revelation of Jesus — there are 16 specific descriptions of Jesus.

3

Affirmation for Faithfulness — this tells us what Jesus wants or what He likes.

4

Rebuke for compromise.

5

Exhortation to Respond — God gives specific instructions on how we should respond to Him.

6

The Call to Overcome.

7


Eternal Rewards for Overcomers — there are 22 rewards. All of them are important.

8

The Call to Hear — this is a vital exhortation of Jesus for His Church to pay attention.

We are living in the **BEGINNING**
of **BIRTH PANGS** (Matt. 24:8).

The **COMING DECADE** will
be a Season of **EARNEST** and
RIGOROUS PREPARATION.



**WILL WE TAKE HEED OF JESUS'
EXHORTATION TO INTENTIONALLY
CULTIVATE THESE SEVEN AREAS OF
SPIRITUAL MATURITY?**

May we build our life upon what really matters to God. May we be the ones who consistently reach for victory in these seven areas, so that we will be that overcoming Bride who is ready for His return!



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