

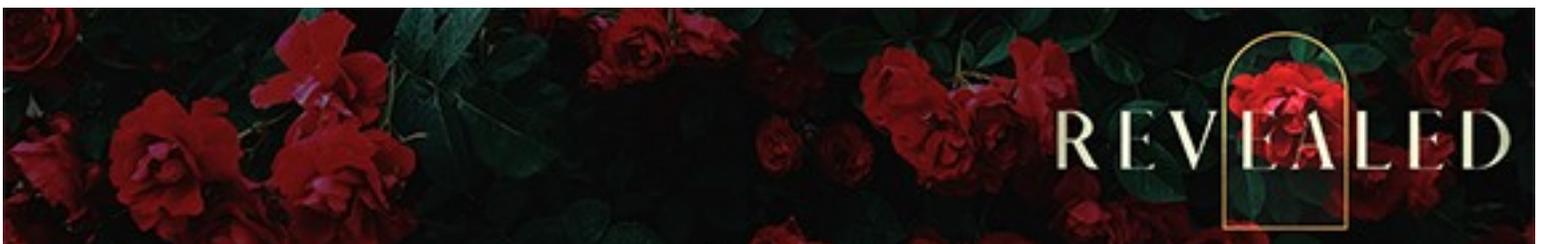


**7 -WEEK STUDY  
IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

**WEEK 3**

**“Warnings Against  
Compromise and  
Complacency ”**

**Revelation 2-3**



## WEEKLY READING

**Primary text from this week:** Revelation 2-3

## GETTING STARTED

**Goals for this session:** To understand and apply Jesus' words of encouragement and correction to the seven churches

**Missed the sermon?** Watch it at [www.youtube.com/venturamissionary](http://www.youtube.com/venturamissionary)

**Break the Ice:** What is your favorite guilty please when it comes to food (i.e. even though it's not healthy and you know you shouldn't eat it, you can't resist!)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Most people assume that Revelation's primary purpose is to predict the future. With that in mind, does it surprise you that Pastor Doug said, "In Revelation, Jesus is less concerned with predicting the future and more concerned with correcting His church"? How does that statement change your understanding of Revelation?
2. In most of the sections written to the seven churches in **Revelation 2 and 3**, Jesus introduces Himself using one or more of the phrases from **Revelation 1:12-18**. Work together as a group to match the introductions to each church with the specific phrases from Revelation 1. *For example, Jesus introduces Himself to the church in Ephesus by referring to Himself as "These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands."*  
  
Why do you think Jesus does this?
3. Pastor Doug told the story of Polycarp, the Bishop of the church in Smyrna who was martyred for his faith in 156 AD, just 60 years after Revelation was written. Although most of us do not have to face the kind of persecution the church in Smyrna faced, what are some ways you have experienced persecution for your faith?
4. Pastor Doug suggested that America's greatest sin is **self-sufficiency** and **self-reliance**, and referenced how deeply the past six months have affected us. In what specific areas of our lives has this season revealed we have no control over?
5. Twice Jesus references the Nicolaitans (**Revelation 2:6, 2:15**). As far as we know, the Nicolaitans were leading the Christians astray by teaching that they could mix their Christian beliefs and morals with the beliefs and morals of the Roman culture. In what ways do you see this happening today?
6. In each section to all seven churches, Jesus promises a blessing to those who "are victorious." (see 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12, 3:21.) What do you think it means to be victorious as a Christian? What was Jesus encouraging in these churches?

