

Church of Our Savior and the Seven Churches of Asia Minor (Turkey)

After finishing the three churches of Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea, we will take some time to consider how the seven churches might relate to Church of Our Savior.

This is both a means to dig a little deeper into Revelation in order to apply it to Church of Our Savior, and a means to consider how we ask our questions. The way that we ask questions has a direct bearing on what we hear God saying in and through the Scriptures.

There are two ways to ask questions that connect the Scriptures and our present circumstances. Generally the first set of questions are helpful in thinking honestly about the present, which is Church of Our Savior in this case. The second set of questions however invite us to focus on God's purposes for a Church, including our Church. The two patterns are:

1. to start with the present, move to the Scripture, and then make the connections
OR
2. to start with the Scripture, move to the present, and then make the connections

For example:

1. What do you think our Church is known for? Which Church in Revelation 2 and 3 might that correspond to? How so?
OR
2. What are the seven Churches known for? Of those things, which might describe Church of Our Savior? How so?

Since we have looked at all seven Churches in the *Revelation to the Church* class, we can reflect on all of the seven churches together. In Lent however, it might be better to focus on one Church. Here is an example with focusing on just the Church in Sardis:

1. What do you think our Church is known for? How might that compare with the Church in Sardis?
OR
2. What is the Church in Sardis known for? Can we say the same thing of Our Savior? How so?

Follow Up Questions to the First

The word of the Lord was given to each of the seven Churches usually comprising four elements.:

1. The things for which the Churches were known
2. The things for which the Churches were rebuked
3. The things which God commanded the churches to do
4. The things which God promised to those who obeyed

Just as we have already built questions around the first element, we can also built questions around the later three elements (e.g.; the rebukes, the commands, and the promises). For example:

1. Beginning with the present (e.g.; our Church):
What is Church of Our Savior being rebuked for, being commanded to do, or being promised? The same question could also be asked a bit more indirectly. What are some things at Church of Our Savior that God might be saying to us to rebuke us, to command us, to promise to us?
2. Beginning with the Scriptures
What has God said (rebuked, commanded or promised) to one of the seven Churches? Is there any reason for God to say the same thing to Church of Our Savior? Why or how so?