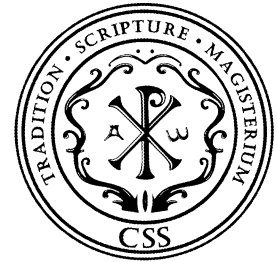


# Revelation



## ***Notes from the Podium***

*By Fr. Matthew Kauth*

**These notes are intended to augment your own reading and study of the lesson. Please use as an aid to help document the main message of the lecture**

### ***Revelation 2:1-3:22***

#### I. Interpretations

- A. Epochs
- B. Recapitulation of Covenantal history – as seen in text

#### II. Letters

- A. Personal in Nature
  - 1. From someone they love
    - a. Lord and Master
    - b. One who knows their *works*
      - i. Faith is incarnate
      - ii. St. James – “Faith without works is dead”
      - iii. To renew our minds is easy but to conform our lives to truth is very difficult
      - iv. Work of Conversion – God’s Grace, St. Paul says “ I do what I don’t want to do all the time”
    - c. One who searches the depths of their hearts
    - d. Praise and Admonition
  - 2. to the universal church as well as to those particular churches.
    - a. “Let him who has an ear to hear, hear.”
    - b. “Sentire com Ecclesia” – to think with Christ, to think with the Church
    - c. Our minds are formed by Revelation –how else can we discern what we hear?
      - a. We learn the contours of His voice
      - ii. We can also check it against the Church

#### I. The Seven Churches

- A. Ephesus
  - 1. *Acts 19:20* – successful conversion
  - 2. Important Port City
  - 3. Temple of Artemis – one of the seven wonders of the ancient world
  - 4. John spent last years there
  - 5. Believed to be the place of Our Lady’s Dormition and Assumption

## Notes from the Podium (cont)

### 6. Admonition

- a. fallen away from first love
  - i. orthodoxy will not save
  - ii. “the moment we begin to forsake truth, we begin the descent into Hell” – Charles Williams, “The Descent into Hell”
  - iii. Path of conversion: truth – contrition – intimacy
  - iv. No lamp in Ephesus now – inhabited entirely by Muslims
  - v. Fruit of immortality – the fruit of the womb and the tree of life:

Genesis

Eden

Tree of Life

“Blessed is the fruit of the womb, Jesus...”

The Fruit hangs on the tree of the Cross

Eucharist- Zoe (divine life)

The New Garden/Temple

The Church/The New Jerusalem

### B. Smyrna

1. Poor pilgrim – less to carry – Praise God!

1. Escape 2<sup>nd</sup> Death (more on this later)

### C. Pergamum

1. witness to truth

1. 1<sup>st</sup> place to erect temple to Divine Augustus (Emperor Worship)

3. Altar to Zeus – Place where Satan has his throne

4. Antipas – “My faithful witness”, synonymous with faithful martyr

5. Hidden Manna

a. contrary to pagan banquets, *1 Cor. 10:21*

b. refers to Bread of God

c. Presence of Christ

6. White Stone

a. purity, victory, joy, etc...

b. ticket to banquet

c. Revelation ends in a banquet

### D. Thyatira

1. idolatry

a. Jezebel and King Ahab

b. Likened to adultery

c. Israel is God’s people

d. “pornea” – pornography – false worship

e. “planan” – deceives, a word always reserved for Satan and his minions.

2. “Poimainein – means both to smash and to shepherd. *Rev 2:27*

a. God breaks down that he might build up

b. Any suffering that we endure is for the purpose of building up

## ***Notes from the Podium (cont)***

### 3. Morning Star

- a. Rev. 22:16 – refers here to Christ who brought the dawn
- b. The Morning Star heralds the dawn, the coming of the sun, the end of night, the beginning of day.
- c. Rightly, then, is Our Lady called the Morning Star.

### E. Sardis

1. NC motto: “Esse quam videri” – means to be rather than to seem. Much like appearing to be alive but truly dead.
2. Mortal Sin – kills sanctifying grace within us
3. “Watch the fruits!”

### F. Philadelphia

1. Made into Holy Temple –Earthquake in AD 17
2. Rebuild as a pillar
3. “Neoceasarum” vs. “The New Jerusalem”
4. Open door vs. “aposunagogein” (closed door to the synagogue)

### G. Laodicea

1. Reference to waters of Hierapolis (hot springs that become lukewarm and sulphurous by the time they reach Laodicea)
2. 3 mainstays: banking, clothing and salve for eyes.
3. “You think you are rich, but you are not rich; you are poor, naked and blind.”
4. Grace can make you genuinely rich
5. Song of Songs – “Open to me my sister, my dove, my perfect one.” - He knocks.
6. Christ knocks in THIS life.
  - a. If we open the door to Him, He will come in and eat with us. –Reference to the Mass, the Eucharist, and genuine communion with Him.
  - b. “I have longed to eat this supper with you.”– Christ to the Apostles at the Last Supper.
  - c. If we refuse to open the door in this life and then come to Him in the next life and knock: we will hear “I don’t know who you are.”
  - d. Keep communion in this life – have Eternal Life.