

THE LARGER PICTURE OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN REVELATION:

	Praise	Rebuke	Summary
Ephesus	They are steadfast in work, not tolerant of evil teaching, they hate false teaching.	They have lost their first love.	This is an assembly that has its theology right, but has lost its heart of compassion and service.
Smyrna	Even though financially poor, they are spiritually rich in the midst of slander and persecution		This is a persecuted assembly, given the grace it needs to endure in their faithfulness to the end.
Pergamum	They are steadfast in faith even in the light of death.	There are some who follow false teaching – sexual immortality and idolatry.	This is an assembly that is struggling to remain true to Christ in the face of cultural pressure.
Thyatira	Their works of faith, hope and love are growing.	They tolerate false teaching.	This is an assembly that has good works but allows false teaching.
Sardis	There are a few who have remained pure in this assembly.	They look good on the outside, but are in reality dead and asleep on the inside. They are not pressing on toward the goal.	This is an assembly that is living on its past accomplishments without a vision of pressing on and growing till the end.
Philadelphia	They have endured steadfastly in the midst of persecution		This is an assembly that stays true, even in the most difficult times.
Laodicea		They have become useless in their arrogance and self-sufficiency.	This is an assembly that has become so self-sufficient that they do not need Jesus.