

Assessment of Classen Blvd. Baptist Church - August 18, 2019

Of the 7 churches profiled in Rev. 2 & 3, which one does CBBC most resemble?

Indicate the church with which we have the most in common by circling/checking, or by ranking them from the closest resemblance (1) to the least resemblance (2-7)

EPHESUS - **"The Rigidly Right Church"** Rank # _____

- They were doctrinally right and would not put up with bad teachers or bad conduct
- They were relationally wrong. They had left their first love. Relational embers were fading
- They were busy Christians and believed the right things, but they were out of balance.
- They had all knowledge; but without love... they were nothing. Theologians with no Emotions
- They had a good creed but no connection...lack of fellowship with Jesus and each other

SMYRNA - **"The Poor & Persecuted Church"** Rank # _____

- They had no money (financial trials in rich town) and no one liked them...except Jesus
- They were a church in tribulation and were going to be tested with more trial and tribulation
- The false church slandered them and blasphemed them. (between problems and promises)
- Jesus had nothing bad to say about them, He only encouraged them to be faithful and endure

PERGAMOS- **"The Back in the Day Church"** Rank # _____

- They were living on past victories but losing the present battle. (challenging location)
- They were nostalgic and negligent. They were sitting on their laurels
- They were beginning to conform to that which they once confronted. (absorbing culture)
- They were beginning to mix up their worship with the world and mess up their sexuality
- They were beginning to hold to that which Jesus hated. They tolerated what Jesus hated

THYATIRA - **"The Mixed, Matriarchal, & Immoral Church"** Rank # _____

- This church had a few good members that were growing in the faith. (Most accolades)
- Their glass was half full and half empty. 5 excellent traits but 5 terrible traits (Jekyll / Hyde)
- They tolerated a false prophetess who was a bad woman pastor. (Lack of male leadership)
- They embraced and promoted idolatry and sexual immorality - progressive and pluralistic
- They were going to lose the next generation (most severe warning)

SARDIS - **"The Big Reputation but Bad Reality Church"** Rank # _____

- This church had a lively reputation but a deadly reality. Known as "alive" but really "dead".
- There was some life among the dead. Mostly a mirage. All image/superficial. (cotton candy)
- They were the "happening church" but it was all a façade. They were all style but no substance.
- They were a dead church without the Spirit, or spirit. A mannequin church. Cardboard cutout

PHILADELPHIA - "*The Puny with Potential Church*"

Rank # _____

- This church believed the Bible and held fast to Jesus and His name
- This church had a big opportunity but only a little power and limited results. (Runt of the bunch)
- This church was in danger of losing its reward. Not proactive with opportunity of "open door"

LAODICEA - "*The Supermodel and Self Deceived Church*"

Rank # _____

- They had a very high self assessment. They thought they were a great church (not "scandalous")
- Jesus gave them a bad assessment as a miserable, wretched and blind church
- Proudful church=useless church (badwater) =nauseous Christ. They had a "beautiful" churchianity
- They had a big bank account. Their security was their loot and not their Lord. Very independent
- They were clueless about their real condition and very ignorant of their true poverty and peril

What sin does CBBC need to repent of? What would Jesus say to Classen Blvd.?

Pick from the list of sins from which the 7 churches needed to repent, or, supply your own observation.

A lack of love for the Savior and saints
A lack of hatred for sin and false doctrine
Conforming to an idolatrous worldly worship
Tolerating or embracing sexual immorality
Tolerating false teaching/teachers
Unwillingness to repent or change. Set in ways

A dead and fake faith. No spirit or Spirit
Not enduring or holding fast. Incomplete work
Lack of fervency. Complacent and apathetic
Having security in money. Fiercely independent
Having a high self esteem. Proudful about itself
Other _____

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- These are the threatened consequences for the unrepentant church
 - Loss of their light and ability to shine and be bright. Darkness in the church
 - Jesus would fight against them and sharply rebuke them. (Lord as enemy /world friend)
 - There would be sickness and great tribulation for the church
 - The church would lose the next generation.
 - Jesus would take away what little, and little life, they had left. (come as thief)
 - They would lose their reward (lost treasure in heaven)
 - They would make their Savior sick and want to vomit
 - This is what is promised to a repentant, overcoming and victorious church
 - Fellowship and walking with God in paradise. Access to the Tree of Life
 - The crown of life and not being hurt by the second death
 - A new name, new life and new food. New intimacy with God. Newness and renewal
 - Power and rule over the nations. The morning star. (inherit heaven and earth)
 - Cleanness and assurance of salvation. Knowing your name is in the book of life
 - Publicly acknowledged by Jesus in heaven before the Father and His angels
 - Confidence of being loved by God. Having His Name and His city's name - Being HIS!
 - Being kept from trials and having prominence and permanence in the Kingdom
 - Fellowship with Christ at the Table and ruling with Christ on the Throne