

**PRIORITY
MAIL**

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The Seven Churches of Revelation

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PREFACE

You've Got Mail

You're working along when a familiar voice on your computer says, "You've got mail." Distraction or delight? Invariably, curiosity overcomes continuation of work, and you look to find out who sent the e-mail.

Imagine a "You've got mail" from Christ. What a surprise! What would He say? Would His letter bring comfort or correction? praise or warning? I suspect it's hard for us to imagine a personal note from Christ and the impact it would have. However, it happened once to seven churches in Asia Minor, and we have the privilege of reading their priority mail.

Although some consider the Revelation of Jesus Christ to be a book that is irrelevant to our daily lives, it claims to bring blessing to those who read it (Revelation 1:3). It is a blessing not only because it looks forward to that final revealing of Christ as King of Kings (Revelation 17:14), but also because it reveals Christ in His present role as the One walking among the churches (Revelation 2; 3). But what did He say, and what is He doing?

The study of the postcard-size messages to churches in ancient Asia Minor provides more than a historic understanding of seven churches of that day. Each message reveals Christ in a unique way that matched the need of each particular church. In a typically Biblical way, the student of these passages will also find him- or herself relating the message to his or her own church. Then suddenly and almost unconsciously, it will hit home: these messages are for the reader! It's not "They got mail," but "You've got mail"!