

The 7 churches

Revelations 2,3

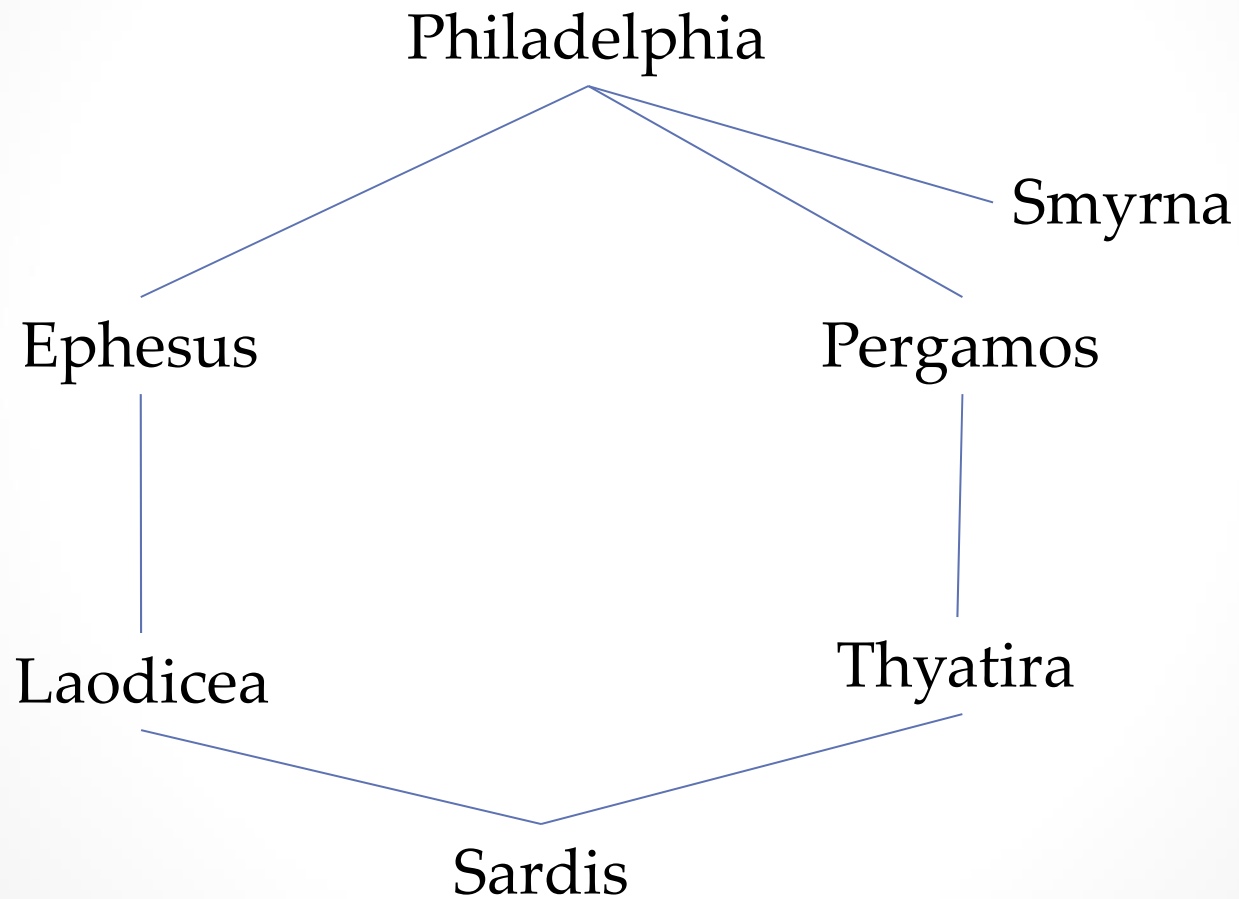
Introduction

- Genesis: We talked about the downfall of Man
 - From the Garden of Eden to Death
 - Adam, Cain,
- Romans: We talked the downfall of Man (spiritual state)
 - **Romans 1:18-32**
- **Definition of Church**
 - **Ephesian 5:25-27,29**
- **Revelations 1:4,11**
 - Addressed to seven churches (verse 4)
 - Lists the seven churches (verse 11)
- **Matthew 13: 3-8; 24-30; 33**

The 7 churches

- They existed in Asia when John wrote Revelations
- They are related to the 7 parables in Matthew 13
- Bill MacDonald's stated that they are reflected of how "Church" did over time.

Churches



Philadelphia (Rev 3: 7-13)

- The ideal state for a church
- Philadelphia = Love for the brethren
- Praised for:
 - In human strength, they trusted in the Lord and preserve the truth
 - Keeping Christ's word
 - Not Denying Christ's Name
 - Perseverance
- Warned about:
 - Needing to hold fast to what they had; and
 - preserving through the coming of tribulation
- From a Historical Church View
 - During the 18th & 19th centuries, there were mighty revivals and great missionary movements
- Biblical Perspective:
 - Adam (pre-fall)
- Personal Walk
 - Closest to the Lord

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Smyrna (Rev 2:8-11)

- **The persecuted church**
- Smyrna = myrrh or bitterness
- Praised for:
 - Tribulation
 - Poverty
- Warned About
 - Needing to be faithful under persecution
- From a Historical Church View
 - From 1st to 4th century under the Roman emperors
- Biblical Perspective
 - Stephen
 - Joseph and others
- Personal Walk
 - When we are being tempted, persecuted and tried

Pergamos

(Rev 2: 12 -17)

- **The Compromising Church**
- Pergamos = The High Tower or Thoroughly Married
- Praised for:
 - Holding fast to Christ's name
 - Not Denying the faith, even when faced with martyrdom
- **Warned About**
 - Allowing false teaching to spreading immorality and idolatry
 - Holding to Nicolaitan doctrine
- **From a Historical Church view**
 - During the 4th and 5th century, Christianity was recognized as an official religion through Constantine's patronage
- **Biblical Perspective**
 - King Solomon after he became king
- **Personal Walk**
 - When we give into a temptation

Thyatira

(Rev 2:18-29)

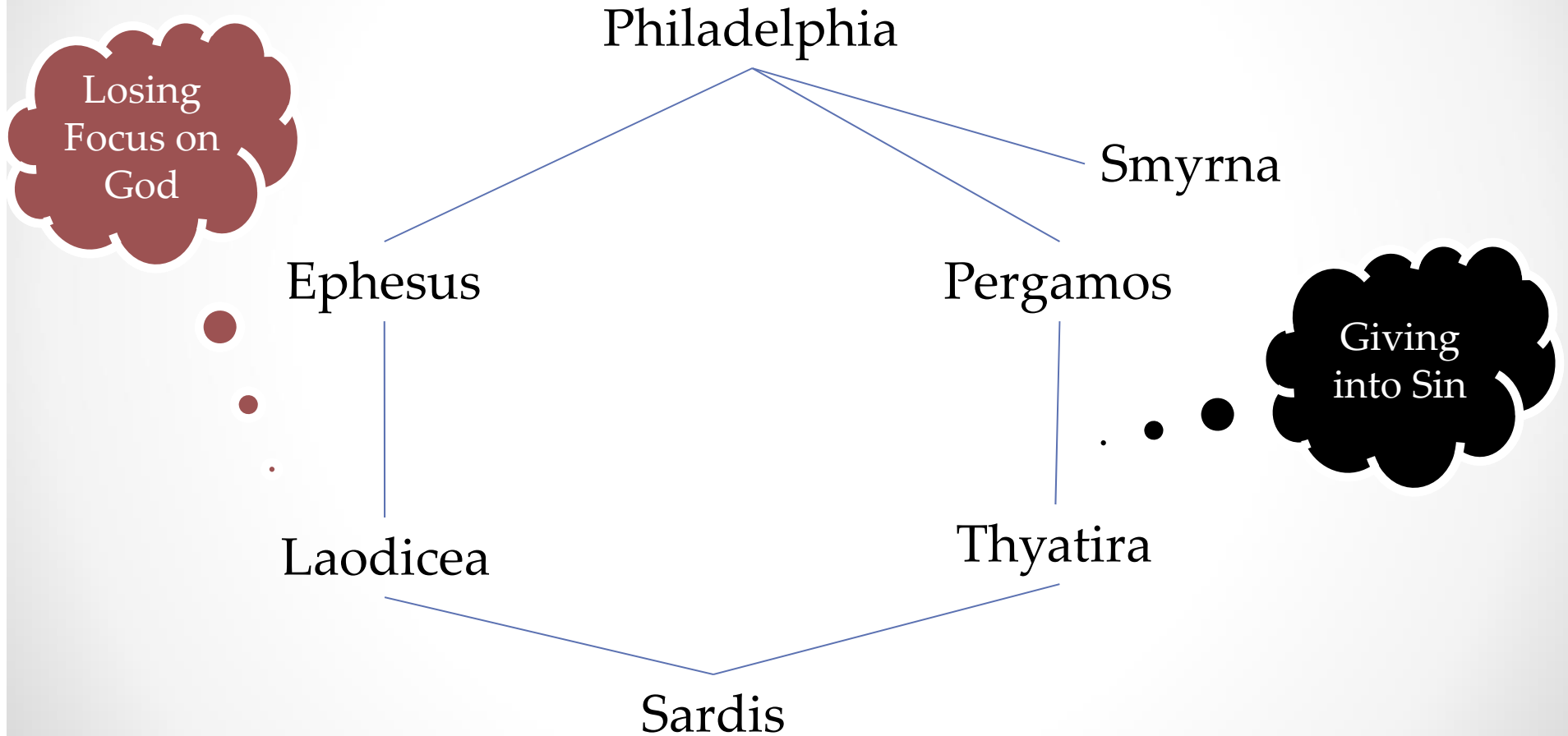
- **The Corrupt Church**
- Thyatira = The Perpetual Sacrifice or Continual Offering
- Praised for:
 - Love, Service, Faith and Patience
- Warned About:
 - Allowed Jezebel to Seduce others to immorality and idolatry
 - Needing to hold fast and overcome
- From a Historical Church view
 - During the 6th and 15th century, the Roman Catholic Church largely held sway in Western Christendom until Rocked by the Reformation. In the East, the Orthodox Church ruled
- Biblical Perspective
 - Kings of Israel before the nation was destroyed
- Personal Walk
 - Know you are living a sinful life

Sardis

(Rev 3:1-6)

- The dead church
- Sardis = Those Escaping or Renovation
- Praised for:
 - A few faithful people
- Warned About:
 - Deadness of faith despite their reputation for being alive
- From a Historical Church view
 - The 16th and 17th centuries were the Post-Reformation period,. The light of the Reformation soon became dim
- Biblical Perspective
 - Cain, Judas
- Personal Walk
 - Hardened to sin

Churches



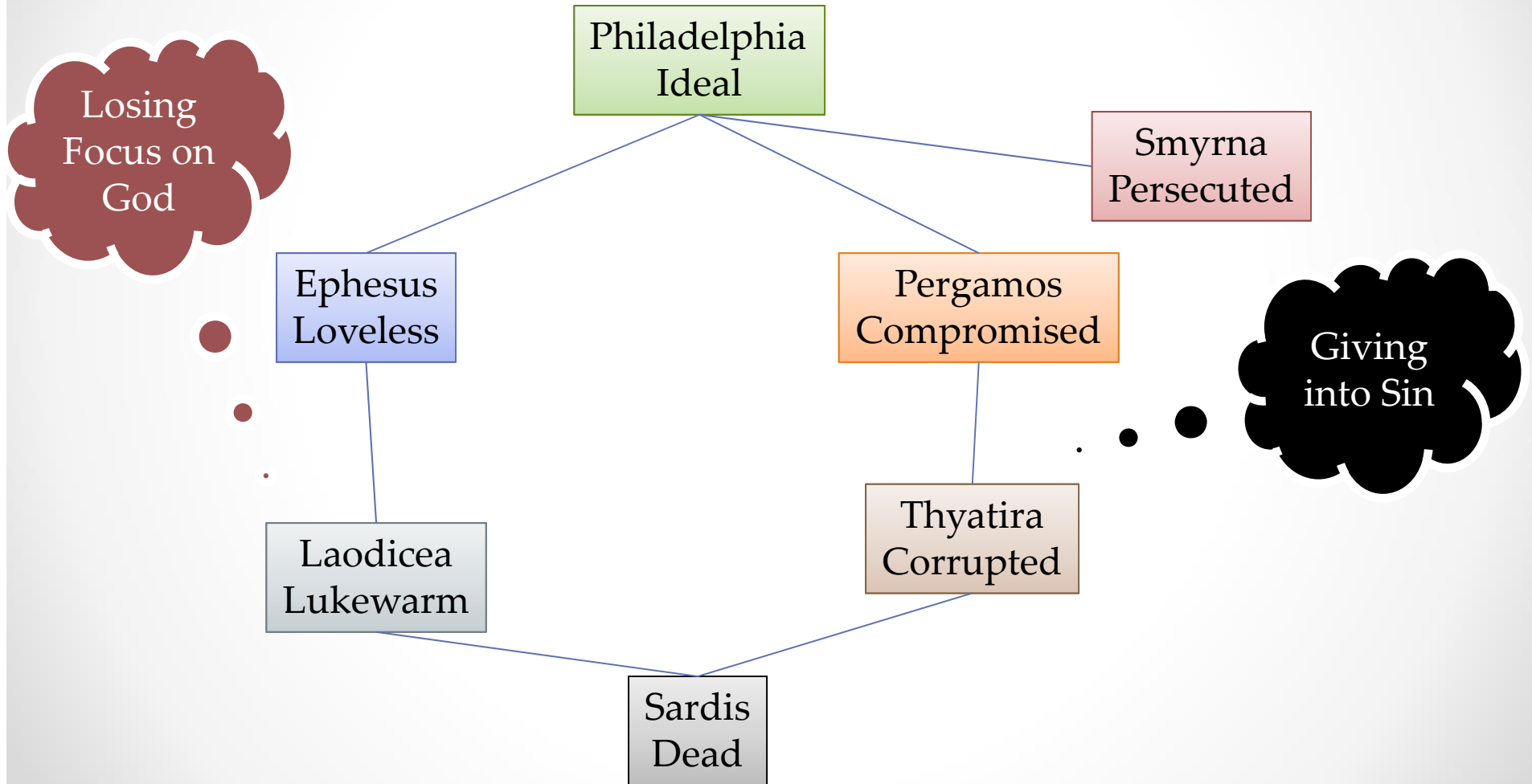
Ephesus (Rev 2: 1-7)

- **The loveless Church**
- Ephesus = A later place
- Praised for:
 - Labor, Patience, Not putting up with evil people, testing false apostle, perseverance, hating the deeds of the Nicolaitians
- Warned About:
 - Leaving their first love
- From a Historical Church view
 - The Christ of the first century generally praiseworthy but it had already left its first love
- Biblical Perspective
 - Pharisees
- Personal Walk
 - Legalistic

Laodicea

- **The Lukewarm Church**
- Laodicea = The people ruling or the judgement of the people
- Praised for:
 - Not Praised
- Warned About:
 - Being Lukewarm, pretending to be spirituality rich when they were spiritually impoverished
- From a Historical Church view
 - The Church of the last days
- Biblical Perspective
 - Pilate
- Personal Walk
 - Apathetic

Churches



Application

- The parables in Matthew 13
 - There will always be real Christians and pretenders in any church
 - Be focused on God and His Word
 - Don't give into temptations and don't let sin fester
 - Show love through God
 - Not because you have to.