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**FATHER OF THE BRIDE**

**Episode Three: Revelation 2**

When God the Father chose a bride for God the Son, he picked a prostitute. Having purchased this hooker with his own blood, Jesus is now preparing her for his wedding day. The cosmic events of history are orchestrated to change a street walker into a bride, worthy of the King. Revelation 2 shows four portraits of this unfinished bride and the lengths to which Jesus will go to get her ready.

1. The Bride of Christ: what she was, is, and is destined to become [Revelation 1:19-20; Ephesians 5:25-28].

1. Revelation: A love letter from Heaven to the Bride [Rev. 1:11]
2. The Groom: He will stop at nothing to make his Bride everything she has been predestined to become [Rev. 1:13-18; 2:1] This is holiness wrapped in love.
* Unconditional Love [Romans 5:8]
* Sacrificial Love [Ephesians 5:25]
* Purposeful Love [Ephesians 5:26&27]
1. **Portrait One**: The Ephesus Bride. Duty without passion [Rev. 2:1-7]
* **The diagnosis** [vv. 2-4] Doing good for all the wrong reasons.
* **The Remedy** [vs 5] Remember, Repent, and Return.
* **The Reward [**vs. 7] Overcoming the bad times now, and enjoying Paradise Restored later.
1. **Portrait Two**: The Smyrna Bride. Poor in appearance, rich in spirit. [Rev. 2:8-11]
* Jesus knows who we are, and identifies with our condition [vv. 8&9]
* Jesus defines success for a church, and not the world does not [vs 9]
* No matter how far along we are, Jesus is not through with us. The bad times we experience are for our good and his glory. They not only serve the endgame, but will also end in his good time. [vs. 10]
* When our life is on the line, we ought to fear the *second* death more than the first. [vs. 11]
1. **Portrait Three:** The Pergamum Bride. She loves Jesus, but allows the surrounding world to worm its way in [Rev. 2:12-17]
* The husband of the bride is also a surgeon [vv. 12&13].
* Smorgasbord love is never enough for the groom. If he is not the Lord of all, then he is not the Lord at all [vv. 13&14].
* In a world of pervasive and intrusive deception, the Bride must guard against corrosive influences [vv. 14&15]
* The reward of exclusive and faithful love that perseveres to the end [vs. 17]:

 **Hidden Manna**—Jesus himself [John 6]

 **A white stone**—The verdict is in, and you are innocent.