

His ascended glory in the form of expression with the expression which would be in the memory of His disciples and His hearers. We need not return to this division; we note here thankfully and for our encouragement every mark of identity between our Ascended Intercessor and our great High Priest on earth.

V. The reward given to him that overcometh. In each case the spiritual life is represented as a struggle against opposing forces and the reward of the victor, which is in each case substantially the same—union with Christ here and hereafter—is represented under varying images in the cases of the Seven Churches.

Let us now take the divisions again in greater detail, except the fourth division, which from its simplicity we need not further discuss. We may remark that in the first three messages the fourth division or the general exhortation comes as we have placed it, whereas in the other four messages the general exhortation comes at the end, changing places in the message with the reward given to him that overcometh; thus these later messages conform more directly to the parables of our Lord wherein the exhortation comes at the end. This trifling variation in order does not seem to have any special meaning for us, it rather savours of naturalness and absence of rigorous or artificial or elaborate arrangement.

1. The Angel of the Church does not appear to be an ideal representation of the Church, but the representative official of the Church, the Bishop or Pastor, the person sent by God in the ministration of His Church who is responsible for the Church in many ways, whose personality acts on the individual church as the character of the individual church reacts on him. The tone of the message is decidedly realistic, hence we regard this angel or messenger as God's human messenger placed in charge of the individual church: "unto you and the rest," we have in the message to Thyatira: and here "Thou hast." God's ministers are not "lords over His heritage," but they are "stewards of the Divine Mysteries," and there is no doubt that the character of both overseer and church, or Shepherd and Flock, will have a remarkable relation and inter-relation with one another. This is one of the many cases in which action and reaction are closely related. What a warning this is to both minister and people that they should help each other spiritually, by living near to and in Christ; otherwise we shall be sure to notice the infection of decay or of faults passing from one to the other and in both directions, not in one only.

The name Pergamos demands our attention: it is also written Pergamon, or in latinized form Pergamum; the modern name is Bergama. This is the only mention made of it in the New Testament.

It is a city of historical importance, and was the seat of an Empire from