

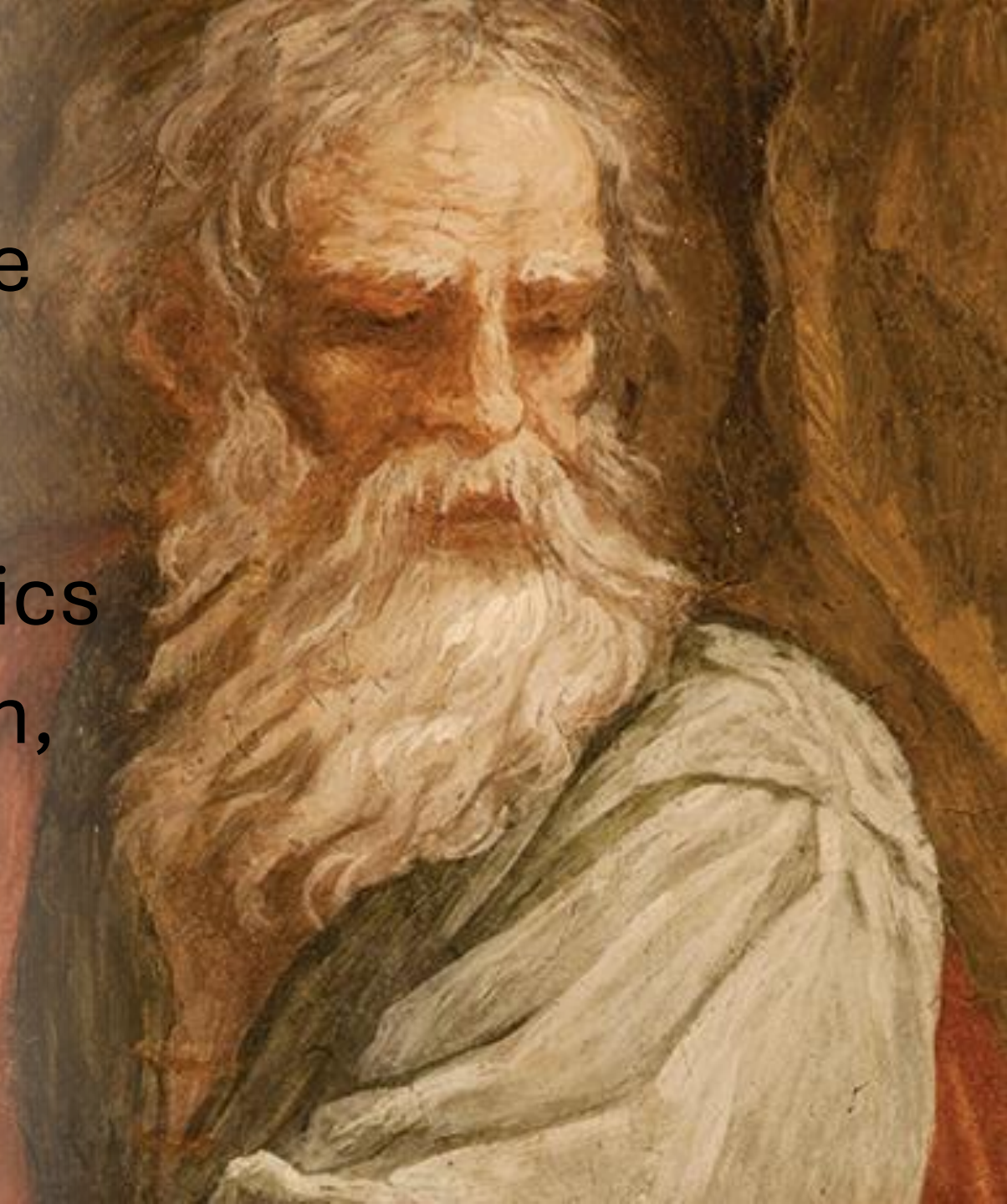


The Church in Imperfection

Revelation 2 and 3

Format

- John commissioned to write
- Characteristics of Jesus
- Positive achievements/characteristics
- Encouragement, instruction, warning
- Exhortation to listen
- Promise



Ephesus

- Jesus walks among and inspects
- The good: Hard workers, perseverance, doctrinally sound, indefatigable
- The bad: Forgotten first love
- Discuss “practices of the Nicolaitans.”
- Tree of life – like in the Garden of Eden



Smyrna
(modern day
Izmir)

- Jesus reveals Himself as sovereign
- The good: rich – in faith.
- The bad: nothing bad is said.
- Synagogue of Satan
- Crown of life







Pergamum –
capitol city of
Asia

- Double-edged sword – real authority
- Imperial cult was huge here – “Satan has his throne.”
- The good: Kept faith even in the face of death.
- The bad: Teachings of Balaam (Numbers 31:15-16) and the Nicolaitans
- Hidden mana and white stone – God’s invitation and His provision



Thyatira

- Son of God – in contrast with the god of guilds, son of Zeus.
- Sees everything – searches hearts and minds (kidneys)
- Good: growing in work
- Bad: Tolerate Jezebel
- Nation-ruling – Psalm 2:8-9
- Morning star – Messianic glory (Enoch 104:2; Phil. 2:15)



Sardis

- Captured from within twice – v. 3
- The bad: Dead, work is unfinished – this is a matter of faithfulness, not morality.
- The good: A few unsoiled – had not compromised with paganism



Philadelphia

- Holy and true – can be trusted
- The good: Faithful and obedient
- Open door to the Kingdom (Isaiah 22:22)
- Synagogue of Satan – exclusion?



Laodicea

- Wealthy city, made salves for ears and eyes.
- Amen – valid and binding – Isaiah 65:16
- The bad: Lukewarm (not committed), self-satisfied
- Still a church, still loved

