

## Revelation 3

### Jesus' Final Messages to the Churches

#### I. The Church at Sardis: A Reputation Without Life (Revelation 3:1–6)

Jesus addresses the church in Sardis with the ultimate authority of the risen Christ, presenting Himself as the One who "has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars." This phrasing doesn't imply multiple Holy Spirits; rather, the number seven symbolizes completeness and perfection. It points to the fullness of the Holy Spirit, specifically reflecting His diverse ministries and operations on earth.

His assessment is sobering:

"I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead."

Sardis had a reputation for life, but not the reality. Outwardly active, inwardly lifeless. There was form without power, structure without spiritual vitality.

Jesus commands them to wake up:

"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God."

The problem was not that they had begun poorly, but that they had stopped short. What God started, they did not carry through to completion. They had received truth but failed to continue walking in it with watchfulness and obedience.

The warning follows:

"If you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you."

Yet even in Sardis, there was hope. A faithful remnant remained—those who had not defiled their garments. To them Jesus promises:

"They shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy."

And to the overcomer:

"I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."

#### Application:

A good reputation is not the same as a living faith. Jesus calls us to spiritual alertness, not spiritual complacency.

#### II. The Church at Philadelphia: Faithful and Fruitful (Revelation 3:7–13)

To the church in Philadelphia, Jesus presents Himself as "He who is holy, He who is true," the rightful Messiah who holds "the key of David."

“What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open.”

This church had no rebuke—only encouragement.

“You have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”

They were not powerful by worldly standards. They were not impressive in size or influence. But they were faithful. And because of that, Jesus says:

“See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it.”

Faithfulness, not strength, opens doors for God’s work.

Jesus gives a precious promise:

“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world.”

They are exhorted to hold fast, not to gain something new, but to guard what they already possess.

To the overcomer, Jesus promises permanence, identity, and belonging:

“I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God... and I will write on him the name of My God... and My new name.”

### **Application:**

God does not require great strength—only faithful obedience. Hold fast to His Word. He will keep His promises.

### **III. The Church at Laodicea: Self-Sufficient and Spiritually Bankrupt (Revelation 3:14–22)**

Laodicea represents the tragic condition of spiritual self-sufficiency. Jesus identifies Himself as “the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God.”

His verdict is blunt:

“You are neither cold nor hot... because you are lukewarm... I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

This church believed it had everything:

“I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing.”

But Jesus sees what they cannot:

“You do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.”

They were wealthy outwardly, bankrupt inwardly.

Jesus lovingly counsels them to come to Him—to receive true riches, true righteousness, and true sight. Then comes one of the most tender statements in Scripture:

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

Even in this condition, Jesus has not abandoned them.

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock.”

The tragedy is that Christ stands outside His own church. Yet the invitation is deeply personal:

“If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

To the overcomer, Jesus promises the unimaginable:

“To sit with Me on My throne.”

### **Application:**

Religious activity without Christ at the center leads to spiritual emptiness. Jesus must be welcomed personally, not assumed.

### **A Challenge for Believers**

Jesus repeatedly says:

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

These messages call us to examine our hearts honestly. Are we alive or merely active? Faithful or complacent? Dependent on Christ or confident in ourselves?

The Lord disciplines those He loves. If He is correcting you, it is evidence of His care.

### **An Invitation to Non-Believers**

Jesus Christ loves you. He shed His blood on the cross to forgive your sins. He rose from the dead, proving He is God, Savior, and Lord.

He stands at the door of your heart and knocks. If you will open to Him, He will come in, forgive you, restore you, and give you eternal life.

Today can be the day you respond to His voice.

As the Book of Revelation moves forward into chapter four, the focus shifts from “the things which are” to “the things which will take place after these things.” The earthly scenes of the church now give way to the majestic throne room of heaven.

At this point, the narrative turns to Daniel’s seventieth week—a prophetic period that concerns Daniel’s people, the Jewish nation. What follows unfolds God’s sovereign purposes on the world stage as He brings His redemptive plan to its appointed fulfillment.

May God give us ears to hear, hearts to obey, and lives shaped by His truth.