

REVELATION Chapter 3

Teacher: John M. Brown, Olive Hill Church of Christ, Sunday Bible Class, June 2014

I. THE CHURCH IN SARDIS, 3:1-6 “*LIFELESS*”

A. **COMMENDATION:**

1. None to the church as a whole.
2. Some, however, had not defiled their garments (verse 4).

B. **CONDEMNATION:** Spiritually dead! *The Lord knew their true condition (Matt. 6:1-18) that they were dead (1 Timothy 5:6)* – Note the difference between “reputation” and “reality”!

C. **EXHORTATION & WARNING:**

1. Be watchful: strengthen the things which remain, which are ready to die (Eph. 5:14).
2. Remember and repent.
3. The Lord will come on them as a thief – JUDGMENT (2:5, 16, 22-24).

D. **PROMISE TO THE FAITHFUL FEW:**

Overcomers will

1. Be clothed in white raiment.
2. Not have names blotted out of the book of life.
3. Have their name confessed before the Father and his angels.

II. THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA, 3:7-13 “*FAITHFUL*”

A. **SPEAKER:**

1. He that is holy (Isaiah 60:9, 14; Mark 1:24; Luke 4:34; Acts 2:27; 3:14)
2. He that is true (John 14:6).
3. He that hath the key of David: *the Messiah’s authority to open the kingdom* (cf. Isaiah 22:21-23; Acts 2:30).

B. **COMMENDATION:**

1. Works: an open door before them (great opportunity – see 1 Corinthians 16:9; 2 Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3; John 10:1-5).
2. They have a little strength.
3. They have kept Christ’s word and not denied His name.

C. **CONDEMNATION:** none!

D. **WARNING:** none!

E. **EXHORTATION:** Hold fast that which you have – let no man take your crown.

F. PROMISES:

1. Those of the synagogue of Satan (2:9) will not prevail over God's people.
2. Jesus shall keep them from the hour of temptation.
3. Overcomers will be a pillar ("*support*" – *those bearing responsibility in the church, Galatians 2:9*) in the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:20-22; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:5).
4. Overcomers will have God's name written on them ("name of my God" – "name of the city of my God" – "my new name" – see 7:3; 14:1; 22:4).

The church in Philadelphia was in good shape – though it was small and lacking great ability, it was acceptable to God! Our strength is not in numbers, but in faith, truth, commitment, and spiritual might.

III. CHURCH OF THE LAODICEANS, 3:14-22 "LUKEWARM"

A. COMMENDATION: none!

B. CONDEMNATION:

1. They had become lukewarm – neither hot nor cold (*Laodicea was a wealthy city, not for its hot springs and medical school*).
2. They were guilty of empty boasting (v. 17 – *perception vs. reality; note how deceptive unrighteousness is!*).

C. EXHORTATION:

1. Buy gold tried in the fire (trials – cf. 1 Corinthians 3:9-15; 1 Peter 1:6-7).
2. Buy white raiment to cover your nakedness.
 - a. White raiment is the righteousness of the saints – Rev. 19:8
 - b. Spiritual "nakedness" reveals their lack of faith, conviction, and strength – they should be clothed with righteousness and the whole armor of God!
3. Anoint eyes with eye-salve to see (compare Matthew 13:15, 16).
4. Be zealous and repent!

D. WARNING:

1. The Lord rebukes and chastens those whom He loves.
2. The Lord is sickened by lukewarmness.
3. The Lord desires to fellowship with them ("*I stand at the door and knock*").

E. PROMISE: Overcomers will sit with the Lord in His throne (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 1:13).