

LESSON FOUR

Revelation 3:1-13

We are continuing with our study of the seven churches of the Revelation. Sardis was an ancient city where the worship of the Roman emperor was very strong. The words for this church are very harsh. Notice that even in this dark church, the life of faith is still present. Philadelphia, which means “brotherly love”, was not as affluent as the others we have discussed. It was a center of pagan worship, and its chief god was Dionysus, the god of wine.

1. How is Jesus described in verse 1? What do you think is its significance?
2. What is the issue in the church of Sardis according to verses 1-3? Compare this to the parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13.
3. What is the hope shown in verses 4-6? What are the promises for those who are “unsoiled”? What do you see as the symbolism of these promises?
4. Read Revelation 3:7-13. How is Jesus described in verse 7? What do you think is the significance?
5. For what is this church commended? Can you relate John 17:15, 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and 2 Peter 2:9?
6. What is promised to those who overcome? See also Matthew 16:27 and 1 Corinthians 9:24-25.

Prayer Almighty and ever lasting Father, the journey of faith can be fraught with obstacles and diversions. Keep us ever mindful as we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. In times of trouble or persecution, give us the courage to hold firm to your teachings, to lift up our cross daily and follow your Son. Create in each of our hearts the desire to lead lives that show we are pillars of strength to those around us. We ask this in your Son’s name, Jesus. Amen.