

Revelation: Chapter 3

Opening Question: How is the Lord's discipline of those He loves, as John states to the messenger of the church at Laodicea, to be seen as both an admonition and an encouragement to the believer?

Key Takeaways:

1. Each of the seven churches in Revelation 2-3 are encouraged by the apostle John with a message of a future reward for those who endure and overcome.
2. Revelation 1:19 serves as a literary marker for when the events of Revelation take place.
3. Chapter 1:1-18 records "the things which you have seen."
4. Chapters 2 and 3 record the "things which are."
5. Chapters 2 and 3 describe things taking place on the earth.
6. Chapter 4:1 begins the things "which must take place after this."
7. In addition to Old Testament imagery, John begins to introduce language that he will continue throughout his letter including "white robes," and "the new Jerusalem."

Discussion Questions:

1. Read aloud together Revelation 1-3. What specifically is promised to the seven churches if they endure and overcome? What specific persecution do they face? Where is the persecution coming from?
2. Read Revelation 1:19. This literary marker lays out three sections, what John "has seen," verses 1:1-18, "the things which are," chapters 2-3, and "the things that shall take place after these things," beginning in chapter 4. Recognizing these markers will be helpful as you progress through the book. Discuss the first two literary markers, "the things which you have seen" and "the things which are." How do these distinctions help orient you as you read through this letter?
3. Reread Revelation 2-3 and discuss specific phrases John uses to encourage the seven churches. Recognize that not every promise made in the Bible is a blanket promise to every believer but the encouragement to endure is a universal truth for all believers according to 2 Timothy 3:12.

Practical Application:

1. Read Revelation chapters 1-3. Can you distinguish the “things which you have seen” and “the things which are” from the literary marker in Revelation 1:19?
2. Where are the events in chapters 2-3 taking place? How do you know?
3. Read Hebrews chapters 11-12 and Revelation 3:19. What do these passages say about the Lord’s discipline.

Closing Prayer:

Father, We ask for eyes to see our need for Your work in our lives. While we do not always recognize nor welcome Your discipline, thank You for the reminder that it is only those whom You love that You discipline. Help us to endure and overcome as we seek to persevere in faith. Our desire is to keep our eyes fixed on You and the promise of Christ’s return. Amen.