

Revelation 3 Things that Are

Lift Up the Lord Jesus Christ

- **Application of Seven Churches of Chapters 2 and 3:** Things that Are

1. 7 Churches in John's Day 90 AD
2. 7 Church Ages spanning from John's Day to today: **Chronological Order**

Ephesus	Loveless	Among Lampstands	Pentecost -100	
Smyrna	Persecuted	First/Last Dead/Alive	100-314	
Pergamos	Compromising	Two-Edged Sword	314-590	
Thyatira	Corrupt	Eyes Fire/Feet Brass	590-1517	Roman Catholic
Sardis	Dead	Seven Spirits	1517-1800	Reformation
Philadelphia	Faithful	Key of David	1800-Rapture	Today
Laodicea	Lukewarm	Beginning of Creation of God	1800-GT	Today

Last four church characteristics [Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea] will extend to last days
Speak of Jesus 2nd Coming and Tribulation

Revelation 2:22 ... I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds...25 But hold fast what you have till I come.

Those in Thyatira in John's day **did not see** 2nd Coming or Great Tribulation
Must speak of end time churches/individuals with similar characteristics as Thyatira

- **Thyatira Characteristics of those who will go into Great Tribulation**

1. Churches allowing usurping of God given authority as Jezebel took from Ahab
2. Churches that grab power [land] as Jezebel took from Naboth
3. Churches that worship of Mary and listen to apparitions/teaching of demon called Mary

From Semiramis, to Ashtoreth to Ishtar [Easter] to Jezebel to Queen of Heaven to Athena to Spirit of Jezebel to worship of "Mary" to Woman who Rides the Beast all began at the Tower of Babel; i.e. Babylonian Substituted for Truth. Semiramis marries Nimrod [began Babylon and Nineveh; i.e. Mosul, Iraq.]

Those who don't repent; i.e. come out from among her will go int GT

- If Thyatira represents the age of Roman Catholicism where Latin spoken, bible chained, and priests are only keepers of truth [deep things of Satan] then...
- Sardis represents Reformation and Protestants; i.e. protesting Catholicism.

**People now have the Word...but work of the Spirit is quenched
Jesus had some good said about Thyatira...nothing good to say of Sardis**

I. Church of Sardis The Dead Church

Church Age Represented: 1517-1800 A.D. [Protestant Age]

- **History**

1. **Sardis:** Lit. Red Ones
2. 30 miles SE of Thyatira
3. Capital of Lydia: One of oldest/most important cities in Asia-Minor

4. Center of carpet industry/Noted for its wealth
5. Coins first minted here/home of Aesop [Aesop's Fables]
6. Ruled by: Persians, Alexander, Antiochus the Great and Rome
7. Destroyed by earthquake during the reign of Tiberious
8. Worship of Cybele resembled that of Diana of Ephesus
9. Now obscure village "Sart" with extensive ruins

Sardis Stone named after this place: Once Valuable stone but now Common

Revelation 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore 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. 4 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and 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. 6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." "

- **Salutation**

¹ "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says **He who has the seven Spirits of God** and the seven stars:

- **Ephesus:** He who "holds" Seven Spirits of God
- **Sardis:** He Who "has" Seven Spirits of God to offer...

God is ready to freely give His Holy Spirit to those who ask

Luke 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"**

1b... "I know **your works**, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

I know your works
People know you name all around town...**but you are dead?**

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

**Look successful ...but you are dead.
No lasting fruit. No changed lives. Dead.**

- **Great Physician:** Prescribes 5 Spiritual Remedies for Resurrecting Dead Church

Revelation 3:2 Be **watchful**, and **strengthen** the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. 3 **Remember** therefore how you have received and heard; **hold fast** and **repent**.

Watch, Strengthen, Remember, Hold Fast and Repent

- Resurrection Remedy #1: Watch

² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

Live in expectation of the imminent return of Jesus

Titus 2:12 ...we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and **glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,** ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from **every lawless deed and purify** for Himself His own special people, **zealous for good works.**

Blessed Hope? Glorious appearing of Jesus in the Clouds

- Jesus to return is our motivation for good [Spirit led] works

1 John 3:2 ... but we know that when [Jesus] is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has **this hope in Him purifies himself,** just as He is pure.

- Resurrection Remedy #1: Watch
- Resurrection Remedy #2: Strengthen

Strengthen what **you have that is still good before it becomes defiled** v.4
Exercise things that you absolutely know is of Jesus

- Drop dead programs/Get back to basics: Word, Fellowship, Communion, Praying

Acts 2:42 ... they continued steadfastly in the **apostles' doctrine** [Word of God] and **fellowship,** in the **breaking of bread** [Communion], and in **prayers.**

- Undeniable Truths of God

1. Justification by Faith Alone
2. Inherency of Scripture
3. Depravity of Man
4. Sufficiency of the Blood of Jesus
5. Jesus the Same yesterday, today and forever [Heb. 13:8]

- Strengthen what remains

Matthew 12:20 ... "a battered reed he **will not break off,** and a smoldering wick **he will not put out,** until he leads justice to **victory.**

- Resurrection Remedies for a Dead Church:

1. **#1** Watch in expectancy for Jesus: Motivation for good works
2. **#2** Strengthen what you have: Solid truths. No dead programs.
3. **#3 Remember...**

3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard...

Remember how you first heard the Word of God and Received His Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you **heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation**; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise...

- **Remember how it happened:** Heard, believed, received, sealed with Holy Spirit

Galatians 3:2b ... **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith...** 5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, *does He do it* by the works of the law, or by **the hearing of faith?**

- **Stop doing for a minute/start listening to what the Spirit is saying...**
- Word must be mixed with faith; i.e. listening to the Holy Spirit

Hebrews 4:2 ... the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

A dead church does not listen to the Holy Spirit
A Vital Church stops to listen **for God**, then listens **to God**...then moves out

Jesus is He who offers the seven Spirits of God; His Holy Complete Spirit
Holy Spirit is the difference between a living and a dead Church

- **Spirit for Physical Life**

Genesis 2:7 ...the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a **living being**.

- **Spirit for Spiritual Life**

John 20:21 ... He breathed on them, and said to them, **"Receive the Holy Spirit"**.

- **Spirit for Powerful Life**

Matthew 3:11 [Holy Spirit] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Luke 24:49 ... I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are **endued with power** [Dunamis] from on high."

- **Spirit for Courageous Life**

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has **not given us a spirit of fear**, but of **power** [dunamis] and of **love and of a sound mind**.

Do not forget to pray for the life-giving Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit is the difference between a living and a dead Church

- **Resurrection Remedies for a Dead Church:**

1. **#1** Watch in expectancy for Jesus: Motivation for good works

2. **#2** Strengthen what you have: Solid truths. No dead programs.
3. **#3** Remember: How you received the Spirit by hearing then do what He says
4. **#4 Hold fast...**

3b... hold fast

When everything seems to be slipping away...Hold fast!

Hold fast to the what is good: God, God's Word, Godly Examples and Faithful Testimony

1 Thessalonians 5:21 ...hold fast what is good.

- Hold fast to the God the **Father**

Joshua 22:5 [Instructions to Joshua] **hold fast to Him**, ... serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

- Hold fast to the God the **Son**

Colossians 2:19 [Hold] fast to the Head [Jesus], from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

Branches must be connected to the Vine for Life

- Hold Fast to **God's Word**

Everyday. Every-day

1 Corinthians 15:1 ... **hold fast that word** which I preached to you...

Philippians 2:16 hold... **fast the word of life...**

- **Hold fast to Godly Examples**

Hebrews 13:7 Remember your leaders who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and **imitate their faith**

2 Timothy 1:13 **Hold fast the pattern of sound words** which you have heard from me...

2 Timothy 3:10 ...you have carefully **followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance...**

Philippians 3:17 ...join in following my example, and **note those who so walk**, as you have us for a pattern.

2 Thessalonians 3:7 ...you yourselves know how you ought to **follow us**, for we were not disorderly among you...

- **Hold fast to our Confession of Faith:**

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us **hold fast our confession...**

Hebrews 10:23 Let us **hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering**, for He who promised is faithful.

Revelation 12:11 ... [Satan was defeated] **by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...**

Doctor's Prescription for Spiritual Life...**Hold Fast**

Hold fast to the what is good: God, God's Word, Godly Examples and Faithful Testimony

▪ **Resurrection Remedies for a Dead Church:**

1. **#1** Watch in expectancy for Jesus: Motivation for good works
2. **#2** Strengthen what you have: Solid truths. No dead programs.
3. **#3** Remember: How you received the Spirit by hearing then do what He says
4. **#4** Hold fast: What is good
5. **#5 Repent:** Turn from the ways you are doing things...

3c... and repent.

No one getting saved, restored, healed, nothing of eternal value happening

Turn from dead works and go the other direction.

Pray for My Holy Spirit to bring Life

- **No recommendation by command**
- **Now warning...**

3d... Therefore, 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.

If you will not watch...I will come upon you!

- Sardis was already known for sleeping on the job...
- City known for being militarily impregnable but...
 1. **549 BC.** Median soldier scaled the walls as the guard slept [Thief in night]
 2. **218 BC.** Cretan slipped over the wall as sentries were again careless

If you do not repent of dead works, I will come upon you as a thief Unexpectedly...Won't know what hit you/Cold water

- Jesus 2nd coming will not be a surprise to true believers...**just make-believers**

1 Thessalonians 5:2 ...you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night... **4** But you, brethren, **are not in darkness**, so that this Day should **overtake you as a thief.**

- C.f. v 2 We should be watching in expectation of His imminent return [Rapture]...

1 John 2:28 ... little children, abide in Him, that **when He appears**, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

4 You have a **few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments**; and they shall walk with Me in white, for **they are worthy**.

▪ **Few Not Defiled:**

1. A few who are not lit. "Touching death"
2. A few not walking in dead works
3. A few not dressed in "filthy rags". Wrong motives and wrong heart

Our works apart from Christ are an unclean thing/filthy rag to a Holy God

Isaiah 64:6 ...we are all like an **unclean thing**, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

- A few not defiled...
- A few who are dressed in "**garments of Salvation**"

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has **clothed me with the garments of salvation**, He has covered me with **the robe of righteousness**, ... as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

- **Garments of Defilement:** Works done apart from Jesus
- **Garments of Saints:** Works inspired, led, empowered, done by the Spirit

Revelation 19:8 ...to [the Bride of Christ] it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen **is the righteous acts of the saints**.

- **Righteous acts of the Saints:** Those done by God through us

We must be covered by the righteousness of God

God the Father provided righteous garments for the Bride at the Wedding of His Son
No other garments will be accepted but those given by the Father...

Matthew ... [Father's servants] out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 So he said to him, '**Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?**' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- Only those clothed in righteousness of Jesus will enter Heaven...

Concluding Remarks from Jesus to Sardis the Dead Church

5 **He who overcomes** shall be clothed in **white garments**, and I will not blot out his name from the **Book of Life**

- **Overcomers clothed in White Garments...** given by God to true believers

Overcomers will not be blotted out of the Book of Life
Those who do not overcome will be blotted out of the Book of Life

- **Definition of Terms:** Overcomer

1 John 5:5 Who ... overcomes the world, but **he who believes Jesus is the Son of God?**

- **Unbelievers at death:** Blotted out of Book of Life
 1. Every soul with his/her name written in the Book of Life
 2. It is God's will that every soul is saved...

1 Timothy 2:4 [God] desires **all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

3. Jesus died for the sins of every person ever existed....

1 John 2:2 [Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

**Every soul has their name written in the Book of Life
But every name will not remain in the Book of Life**

- **Believe in Jesus before dying...name stays**

5b... but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Sober Warning: Continuing to reject Jesus until death is the only unpardonable sin
...Those names will be blotted out of Book and their souls cast into eternal hell

Luke "And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who **blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.**"

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

A church is not alive because the name on the sign is recognized
A church is not always alive *even if* they preach the Word of God...

A church is only alive when the Word of God is taught, Holy Spirit is given full control...
...and God's people respond in obedience

Seven Churches of Revelation

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Ephesus | Loveless | Among Lampstands | Pentecost -100 |
| 2. Smyrna | Persecuted | First/Last Dead/Alive | 100-314 |
| 3. Pergamos | Compromising | Two-Edged Sword | 314-590 |

- **End Times churches...**

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 4. Thyatira | Corrupt | Eyes Fire/Feet Brass | 590-1517 | Roman Catholic |
| 5. Sardis | Dead | Seven Spirits | 1517-1800 | Reformation |
| 6. Philadelphia | Faithful | Key of David | 1800-Rapture | Today |

7. **Laodicea** Lukewarm Creator 1800-GT **Today**

- **Two ways to grow a church:**
 1. Word of God [Philadelphia]
 2. Programs/gimmicks/compromise [Laodicea]

II. Philadelphia The Faithful Church

Church Age Represented: 1800-Rapture

- **History**
 1. 50 miles SE of Sardis today known as Alasehir
 2. Built on hills: Picturesque setting w/excellent wine/vineyards
 3. Longest lasting city of seven [though frequented by earthquakes]
 4. Named after its founder King Attalus of Pergamos in honor of his brother...

Philadelphia: City of "Brotherly Love"
Church after God's own Heart

I will keep you from the hour of trial
...which shall come upon the whole world V10

- **Salutation**

7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is **holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":**

- First salutation *not directly* referring back to Jesus description in Chapter 1

Revelation 1:18 ...I have the keys of Hades and of Death

- **Rev 1:** Keys to Heavenly Kingdom
- **Rev 3:** Key to Earthly Kingdom

Letter to Church of Philadelphia
From He who is Holy, True, has the "Key of David", Open/Closes doors

- **He Who is Holy: Separated from Sin and unto God**

1. **Holy at His Birth:** Virgin Birth; separated from sin of Adam

Luke 1:35 ... that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

2. **Holy at His Death:** Body did not decay but resurrected

Acts [The] Holy One [will not] see corruption.

3. **Eternally Holy** and separated from sin

Hebrews 7:26 [Our High-Priest] **is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens...**

Jesus to the Church of Philadelphia: I was, I AM, and always will be Holy

- **He who is True: Jesus and His Word**

Psalms 33:4 ...the word of the LORD *is* right, And **all His work *is done* in truth.**

Revelation [He is] called **Faithful and True**

- **True and Faithful...if He says it we can count on it** [Important to Philadelphia]

Revelation 21:5 ...He who sat on the throne said, "**Behold, I make all things new.**" And He said to me, "Write, for these **words are true and faithful.**" ⁶ And He said to me, "**It is done!** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and **I will be his God and he shall be My son.**

A Promise from the only true Promise Keeper
Overcomers will inherit all things...including the coming Earthly Kingdom

Jesus Holds the Key of David: Jesus will sit on the Kingly Throne of David [cf. Isaiah 22:22]

- Key to the Kingdom established at His 2nd Coming to Earth...

Luke He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the **throne of His father David.** [Yet to be fulfilled]

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born [humanity] , Unto us a Son is given [Divinity]; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the **throne of David and over His kingdom,** To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever...

- **Jesus is coming back w/ the Key of David;** key to Kingdom on Earth for 1000 yrs.

Zechariah 8:3 "Thus says the LORD: 'I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.' ⁴ "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Old men and old women shall again sit In the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age. ⁵ The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets.' **...8:23** "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

To Philadelphia: I have the Key to the Throne of the coming Earthly Kingdom

- **Salutation:** I AM He who is Holy, True, have "Key of David", Open/Close doors [later]

- **Commendation...**

⁸ "I know your **works**. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a **little strength**, have **kept My word**, and have **not denied My name**."

Paraphrase: "You have wisely used the little strength you have to do things that are pleasing in My sight; you have kept My Word and you have not denied My Name; because of this I will give you an open door for witnessing to and reaching a lost world" [NJC]

- **You have a Little strength:** Use what you have for My Glory
- **You have Kept My Word:** Hold to My Word. Guard My Word. Treasure My Word

God's Word Today?

1. **Repudiate** [Try to disprove] God's Eternal Word: 3000+ years and counting

God's Word is the Anvil that has destroyed a million hammers

2. **Dilute** God's Eternal Word: Jeffersonian "Bible", Gender neutral, The Message
3. **Allegorize** i.e. Spiritualize as opposed to literal interpretation [no 1000-year reign?]
4. **Ignore** God's Eternal Word or treat as furniture
5. **Devalue** God's Eternal Word...

1 Timothy O Timothy! **Guard what was committed to your trust**, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge...

Jude 1:3 ...**contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Colossians [You will present yourself holy and blameless in His sight] if indeed you continue in the faith, **grounded and steadfast...**

- **Philadelphia kept God's Word**

1. Guarded the precious gift of God's Word
2. Contended earnestly for the Truth of God's Word
3. Grounded and steadfast in/because of God's Word

Jesus commendation to Philadelphia: Those not going into the Great Tribulation

- You have a little strength and use every bit of it
- You keep My Word and...
- **Philadelphia did not deny the Name of Jesus**

Acts 4:12 ... there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

- **Denying the Name of Jesus:** Serious offense to God with Eternal Consequences

Luke 12:8 "...whoever confesses Me before men, him the **Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.** 9 But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God."

Romans 1:16 ...I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

v8 ...I have set before you an **open door**, and no one can shut it

**Philadelphia kept God's Word/Did not deny Jesus Name
These two practices Opened doors for Effective Witnessing**

- Apostle Paul kept God's Word and did not deny Jesus Name...

1 Corinthians 16:9... a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. [School of Tyrannus in Ephesus]

- God opens and shuts the doors in our lives for His purposes: Father knows best

"When troubles come, it is of no use to fly in the face of God [with angry thoughts toward Him]; that is kicking against the [nails] and hurting your feet. The trees bow in the wind, and so must we.....If one door should be shut, God will open another; if the peas do not yield well, the beans may...There's a bright side to all things, and a good God everywhere... Friends, [and persevere] rather than catch the miserables and give others the disease by wickedly finding fault with God. The best remedy for affliction is submitting to [God's plan]. What can't be cured must be endured. "All things work together for good to them that love God." [Spurgeon]

- **Philadelphia:** Open door on earth for ministry. Later open door to heaven. Rev 4:1

⁹ Indeed I will **make those of the synagogue of Satan**, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed **I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.**

Legalists will worship at the feet of those they mocked/judged/looked down upon
Make-believers: Bow in worship to God the God of Grace as Philadelphia looks on

Philippians 2:10... at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...

- True believers will be honored by Jesus in front of our enemies...

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. **5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;** You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.**

- Laughing, Mockery of self-righteous **will be silenced by God:**

Psalms [David] ... You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have **subdued under me those who rose up against me.**

Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

- **Vindicated/Validated by God:** How great is that!

¹⁰ 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**, to test those who **dwell on the earth**.

Because you have persevered in keeping My Word
Because you have endured in not denying my Name demonstrating saving faith
I will Keep you from the Great Tribulation

- Great **Tribulation:** Hour of trial coming upon whole world. 2-Fold Purpose...
 1. Israel to accept Jesus as Messiah
 2. God's wrath poured out on a Christ rejecting sinful world

World is storing up God's wrath to be poured out beginning in GT eventually hell

Romans 2:5 ...in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are **treasuring up for yourself wrath** in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God...

- **True believers will be kept from the Great Tribulation**

1 Thessalonians 1:9 ...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to **wait for His Son from heaven**, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who **delivers us from the wrath to come**.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...

- True Believers are kept from wrath/with the Lord for seven years
- Jesus was *not kept* from the wrath of God...

ALL of the wrath of God due us was poured out on His Son

- **True believers:** Exemplified by Philadelphia will be delivered from GT
- **Make-Believers:** Remain as the apostate church; i.e. FP led Woman rides the beast

Concluding Remarks from Jesus to Philadelphia the Faithful Church

¹¹ Behold, **I am coming quickly! Hold fast** what you have, that no one may take your crown.

- **I am coming quickly...** Hold fast that no one may take your crown
- Implication? Crown/reward [not salvation] can be lost/taken. **HANG ON TIGHT!**

Revelation "And behold, **I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me**, to give to every one according to his work.

¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a **pillar in the temple of My God**,

and he shall go out no more.

- **Promise to Overcomers:** Make him/her Pillar: Picture of Beauty/Stability/Strength
- A Pillar in the **Temple of My God?**

Heavenly Temple is God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ

Revelation 21:22 ...I saw **no temple in [the New Jerusalem], for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.**

- We can have a taste even now of dwelling in Father/Son...

Psalms 90:1 Lord, You have been our **dwelling place** in all generations.

- We will be clothed with an eternal heavenly home...

2 Corinthians 5:1 ...we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be **clothed with our habitation which is from heaven**

- **Organic/Living Words regarding Heaven?**

1. New Jerusalem likened to Bride of Christ
2. Foundation/Walls of the New Jerusalem [Rev 21]
3. Angel brings John to see the Bride of Christ and John sees New Jerusalem?

Revelation 21:9b [Angel to John] ..."Come, I will **show you the bride**, the Lamb's wife." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and **showed me the great city**, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. [City/Bride relationship?]

The city is associated with the bride to awe us with a sense of its beauty. [Guzik]

4. Jesus and His followers are "Living" Stones" ...

1 Peter 2:4 [Come to Jesus] as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 **you also, as living stones**, are being built up a **spiritual house**

5. Body of Christ and He is our Head [Lots of "organic" language]

The Bible is God's revealed truth but it is not all-inclusive...there is infinitely more [NJC]

2 Peter 1:3 ...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to **life and godliness**

1 Corinthians 13:12 ...now we see in a mirror, **dimly**, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then **I shall know just as I also am known.**

We are safe as we stay within the borders of Scripture

- **We will be pillars** in the heavenly temple that **is God Himself**

Picture of Beauty/Stability/Strength [JV McGee]

- **Go out no more:** Always with the Lord/never ever separated by sin again/never lost

12b... I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And **I will write on him My new name.**

- To those who overcome [are Mine] I will place **three marks of identification:**
 1. **Name of My God:** YHWH Tetragrammaton: I AM that I AM
 2. **Name of My City:** New Jerusalem

Hebrews 11:10 ...[wait] for the city which has foundations, whose builder/maker is God.

3. **New name of Jesus i.e. His new Name**

- **Jesus new Name:** Name revealing more knowledge/understanding of Who He is

Jeremiah 23:5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; **Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**"

YHWH Tsidkenu: The Lord our Righteousness

- Name that means so much to us...

2 Corinthians 5:21 [God] made [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that **we might become the righteousness of God** in Him.

Jesus new name/our new name given to us by Jesus [] show Jesus regard for individuality and his love for us as individuals with differing characteristics [NJC]

¹³ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Philadelphia Application: in spite of opposition and with just a little strength, we have the ability by/through God's Holy Spirit to "keep His Word" and "not deny His Name" in our daily lives. As we obey, God opens doors to the "good works prepared beforehand for us to walk in..." [Eph.2]

The eternal rewards for faithfulness are tremendous; We will be "pillars" in God's Temple; pillars on which are inscribed the **Name of the Father**, a **New Name for the Jesus** and the **name of His Eternal City**. Our fellowship with God, our citizenship in heaven and co-inheritance with Jesus are indescribable. [NJC]

Psalm 16:11 [God] will show [us] the path of life; In [His] presence is fullness of joy; At [His] right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- **Philadelphia:** The Faithful Church rescued from wrath to come
- **Laodicea** Not so if no repentance/salvation

III. Laodicea The Lukewarm Church

Church Age Represented: 1800 A.D. into the Great Tribulation

Philadelphia	Faithful	Key of David	1800-Rapture	Today
Laodicea	Lukewarm	Jesus is Creator	1800-GT	Today

If Philadelphia built their church on **Rock**...Laodicea builds their church on **Sand**

▪ **History**

1. **Laodicea:** Lit. "Justice of the people". Also; popular woman's name
2. Grecian city known for great wealth including the church
3. Sparse water supply/Water was imported
4. Many towns with same name; this one 45 miles SE of Philadelphia
5. Famous Medical School recognized for making/exporting eye medication
6. Also known for science/literature w/extensive banking
7. Zeus (Jupiter) worshiped
8. Laodicea finally abandoned **due to earthquakes**
9. **Today:** Remains of 2 Roman theaters/stadium/3 early Christian churches

Outwardly most impressive of 7 churches...least impressive to Jesus

▪ **Philadelphia and Laodicea are the American Churches of today**

1. **Philadelphia:** True believers/ God-pleasers
2. **Laodicea:** Make-believers/Man-pleasers

Diverse, Tolerant, Socially Acceptable, Intellectual
...Cowards bowing to culture/unwilling to take the heat/suffer for the truth

Revelation 21:8 "...the cowardly...shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

- **Salutation:** Jesus description of Himself specific to Laodicea

¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These **things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:**

- Note: Church of Laodiceans as opposed to Church in Laodicea as other 6.

Not Jesus church but their church. Jesus stands outside and knocks!

▪ **I AM the Amen:**

1. **Amen:** Firm, surely, truly, a truth.
2. **I Am the Amen** lit. **"I AM Jesus the True One"**

2 Corinthians 1:20 ... all the promises of God in [Jesus] are **Yes**, and in Him **Amen**, to the glory of God through us.

If Jesus says it...it is true. If Jesus promises it...it will happen! Amen

- **Amen: Beginning of sentence** Truly...what I say next is an **absolute truth**
- **Amen: End of a sentence** What I just said is **absolute truth**

Jesus the Alpha Omega/Beginning and End of all Absolute Truth

John 14:6 "I am the way, the **truth**, and the life."

I AM the Amen: Jesus *is* the Personification of Truth

Jesus wants Laodicea to know what He says to them is absolute truth about them

- I Am the Amen...
- **I AM the Faithful and True Witness**
 1. Jesus said He would rise from the dead...and He did rise from the dead thus...
 2. Jesus has absolute authority to speak of life, death, salvation, judgment

I AM Faithful and True Witness

Jesus wants Laodicea to know He has absolute authority to judge them absolutely flawlessly

- I Am the Amen...
- I AM the Faithful and True Witness
- **I AM the Beginning of the creation of God**
 1. First place over creation
 2. Ruler over creation
 3. **Source/Origin of all Creation...**

All things were created by Jesus. He makes the rules

John 1:3 **All things** were made through Him...without Him nothing was made that was made.

- **Jesus:** The Creator/Source of all creation...

Colossians 1:16 For by Him **all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him and for Him.** 17 And He is before all things [source/origin], and **in Him all things consist.**

- **Jesus is creator AND sustainer of all things** [heart]
- **Paul warned Colossians:** Beware of the philosophies of men!

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone **cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit,** according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

- Damnable philosophy motivated by empty deceit? Evolution
Denial of creation/Creator and embracing Evolution
- **Not an intellectual conclusion...**but an internal heart issue.
- **Purposeful self-deceit...**I don't want to be accountable.

Since Jesus is the Amen there is *no such thing as Theistic Evolution*

[God using evolution to create? False.]

Matthew 19:4 "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female' [Full grown male/female...not goo to you]

- **Why does Jesus address Laodicea as the Creator?**
 1. All judgements in Revelation relate to **denying God as Creator**
 2. Jesus anticipates great end times deceptions that will creep into the church
 - a) **Theory Evolution:** No fossil record, DNA, Irreducible complexity
 - b) **Denial of Absolute Truth:** Moral compass of sinner is broken
- **Laodicea "buys into" these/other lies of the world:** Because they are of the world
 1. Anything to help "grow their church" Nickels and Noses
 2. Anything to avoid ridicule from the world
 3. Anything to induce feelings of intellectually superiority

Claiming to be wise became fools changing the glory of God into the image of man

- Churches/Individuals like Laodicea will go into the Great Tribulation
- **Make-believers:** Form of godliness but actually enemies of God

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a **friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

Laodicea cheats/deceives seekers of truth

Promote positive/encouraging/entertaining/exciting/ feel good **damnable lies**

1. **No need to repent:** I'm okay...you're okay

[Speaking of Gospel singer Leah Shafer's new lesbian relationship with TV personality Sandy Yawn] Since going public with the relationship, Shafer has endured backlash, as "some religious institutions have turned their back on her," But as Shafer said, "I think you can't help who you fall in love with." "God is love. **He doesn't care,**" she continued. [In direct contrast to homosexuals will not inherit the Kingdom of God 1 Cor. 6:9]

2. **All are welcome:** Un-offensive but impotent/**no power to save**

1 Corinthians 1:18 ...the **message of the cross is foolishness** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

3. **No judgment/hell:** Jesus would disagree

Laodicea denies Jesus as the Truth and His Word as the Ultimate Authority

But the church is thriving? **False assurance** leading to **False coverts** by the thousands...

1 Thessalonians 5:2 ... you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "**Peace and safety!**" then **sudden destruction comes upon them**, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. **And they shall**

not escape.

Jesus addresses Himself to Laodicea

The Amen, the Faithful/ True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God

- Counterfeit tolerance motivated by self-love
- Churches/Church leaders/congregations standing for nothing/falling for anything yet

*"What Jesus says to His creation, about His creation, and for His creation
Is faithful and true...Amen!"*

¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Laodiceans were Lukewarm

I could wish you were COLD: Refreshing/Real, even Harsh, but Teachable

- Atheists
- Satanists
- Sinners
- God-haters

Twenty times a day [Martin Luther] would confess his sins to the priest and finally the priest would tell him, 'please go.' He would tell the priest, 'there is more sin that I have to confess'. Finally, they got fed up with him and they sent him to Rome. In Rome Luther is known to have said to a friend, 'they say that we should love God, but you know what, **I hate God.**' He said, '**I hate God, because I can't get through to God.**' He decided to climb the stairway. He got down on his knees and just as he was climbing the stairway, a word of Scripture that he had read came to him.... '**The just shall live by faith.**' According to the Catholic faith, he'd been trying to find God through works. He'd been doing many things to find God. He'd read the Bible and finally the verse dawned on him, 'the just shall live by faith.' And **that one verse changed his entire life.** He went back a changed man.

Hated God because until he understood God's grace

- **I wish you were Cold:** I can reach them once I crack their hard shell with My grace

I wish you were HOT: On fire for Me/My Word/No hypocrisy/teachable

- On fire for Jesus
- Filled with His Holy Spirit
- Walking the walk...reading Word and doing it..

Romans 12:9 Let love be **without hypocrisy.** Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

- **Hot:** Loving others in sacrificial practical ways
- **Hot:** Pleasing/Obedying God no matter what the cost...job, status, ridicule

Acts [The religious leaders to Apostles] "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" ²⁹ But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: **"We ought to obey God rather than men."**

- **I wish you were either Cold or Hot but you're...**

Lukewarm: Half-Baked/Half-Hearted. Think you're okay

People Pleasers/Cowards/Un-teachable/Un-reachable?

...because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot

I will vomit you out of My mouth!

- **Lukewarm?** Think they are okay because people tell them they are okay
 1. **Careful not to offend sinful man:** Go against public opinion
 2. **Careless in offending a Holy God...**
- **E.g.** Denying Creation/Creator, homosexuality, abortion, fornication, social "gospel"

"...our individual salvation depends on collective salvation. Because thinking only about yourself, fulfilling your immediate wants and needs, betrays a poverty of ambition. Because it's only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential and discover the role you'll play in writing the next great chapter in America's story ..." [BO]

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, but **whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.**

- **Preaching Impotent "gospel" that cannot save...empty deceit**
- **Stay away from make-believing churches/people**

2 Timothy 3:5... having a form of godliness but denying its power. And **from such people turn away!**

Because you are not cold or hot but lukewarm, I cannot tolerate you
Sushi. One of these things just doesn't belong... "Vomit you out of My mouth"

- **Lukewarm:** greater hindrance to the cause of Christ than if "dead" i.e. Sardis

It's interesting that God looks at apostasy and gets angry-but he looks at indifference and **gets ill.** [Jeremiah, Escape the Coming Night]

Great Physician
Jesus Diagnosis for Laodicea: Self-Deceived

The deceived do not know they are **deceived**; [Wendy O Williams, Plasmatics]

**Laodicea is outwardly wealthy/prosperous/growing
...Reality is they are spiritually wretched**

17 Because **you say**, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have **need of nothing**'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

- **Laodicea view of self:** Self-deceived
 1. **Rich:** Compared to other churches
 2. **Become wealthy:** Because our church growth programs
 3. **Need nothing...from God:** Spiritual Pride

- **Jesus view of Laodicea:** Reality
 1. **Wretched:** Troubled/Afflicted
 2. **Miserable:** To be pitied
 3. **Poor:** Lowly, Helpless, Powerless
 4. **Blind:** Physically/mentally blind/cloudy. From rt. Proud, puffed up, haughty
 5. **Naked:** Unclothed. Should feel humiliated by your compromise

Big Churches/Countless programs/Impressed with self/numbers/men's praises

- **Cowering to public opinion/Cowering from the truths of...**
 1. **Creation** Six literal days, Adam and Eve, etc.
 2. **Complete Biblical Inerrancy** No "Pauline" letter nonsense
 3. **Complete Biblical Authority** The final Word. The Amen

- **Laodicean church filled with intellectuals...**

"Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil." C.S. Lewis

Careful not to offend man...yet complexly apathetic to offending God and His Word

Laodicea drools over the praise of man...

Instead of casting down all speculation that rises against Christ, Laodicea embraces any and all notions that would help make **them** more popular and draw more people to **them**...not to Jesus and His hard teachings [NJC]

John 5:41 "I do not receive honor from men. 42 But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you...44 **How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?**

John 12:43 [Religious leaders] **loved the praise of men** more than the praise of God.

Matthew 6:1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen

by them. Otherwise you have **no reward from your Father in heaven.**

You should be showing off Jesus...not building of programs/bank accounts

- Jesus honored the “little strength” of Philadelphia. No so impressive to the world...

1 Corinthians ...you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*.²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and **God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;**²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence.³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—³¹ that, as it is written, **“He who glories, let him glory in the LORD**

- We are not so great but Jesus is!
- Jesus to Laodicea...

**Your pride/parading your arrogant “need of nothing”
...makes Me sick**

- **Lukewarm Churches/Individuals**

Now, lukewarm [professors of Jesus], what do worldlings see in you? They see a man, who says he is going to heaven, but who is only travelling at a snail’s pace. He professes to believe that there is a hell, yet he has tearless eyes, and never seeks to snatch souls from going down into the pit...one who professes to have passed through a transformation so mysterious and wonderful...yet they see him as **much like themselves** as he can be... [Spurgeon]

- **Lukewarm churches/individuals:**

1. Wearing Jesus hats/living own life
2. Bowing to culture...not the Authority of Christ/His Word
3. Denying absolute truths
4. Questioning/denying God’s Word when world questions/pressures/ridicules

Fact: We will never be ashamed as we trust literal interpretation of God’s Word

Q. Are we in or are we out? Are we cold or are we hot...or are we lukewarm?

The careless [unbeliever] is lulled to sleep by the lukewarm professor who... acts the part of the siren’s [melody] to the sinner, playing sweet music in his ears even helping to lure him to the rocks where he will be destroyed ... In this way, great damage is done to the cause of truth...God’s Name and God’s honor are compromised by inconsistent professors. I pray [you] either to give up your profession or be true to it. If you really are God’s people, then serve him with all your might; but if Baal be your god, then serve him. If the flesh be worth pleasing, then serve the flesh; but if God be Lord [supreme], then cleave to him. [Spurgeon]

5. Love to talk about self or listen to others to talk about them
6. Change/morph with public opinion/biggest donation
7. Water down messages in order not to offend or leave empty seat
8. Don’t bother consulting Word of God for truth/direction [Emergent Church]

9. Danger? Believing they are okay because of **perceived outward success...**

- Numbers
- Programs
- Finances
- Education
- Social Status
- Etc.

"... this state of Luke-warmness is so congenial with human nature that it is hard to fetch men from it. Cold makes us shiver, and great heat causes us pain, but a [lukewarm] bath is comfort itself. Such a temperature suits human nature. **The world is always at peace with a lukewarm church, and such a church is always pleased with itself.**" [Spurgeon]

Laodiceans can do church/live life just fine without all those hard teachings of Jesus
No need of Holiness, Cross, Repentance, the Blood of Christ, truth of Creation...thank you

- 20th century church is suffering from **self-perceived adequacy**

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and **have need of nothing**'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

- **What if...**

1. Nothing that you believe about your relation with God is true
2. Nothing you hear from others about your relation with God is true

What if Jesus says...you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked
He is the Amen. The Faithful and True Witness

- Church filled with make-believers patting each other on the back
- Individuals w/form of godliness denying authority of Jesus/His Word in lives/homes

"The cause of Christ has been hurt more by Sunday-morning bench-warmers who pretend to love Christ, who call Him Lord but do not His commands, than by all the tax collectors and sinners." [Havner]

Good News for Lukewarm...Jesus Prescription

18 **I counsel you** to buy from Me **gold refined** in the fire, that you may be **rich**; and **white garments**, that you may be **clothed**, *that* the shame of your **nakedness** may not be revealed; and **anoint your eyes** with **eye salve**, that you may see.

2 Peter 1:10 [You should be growing] Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your **call and election sure...**

Pray for Trials

- Be refined by fire as pure gold

1 Peter 1:6 [Our hope is in heaven] In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been **grieved by various trials**, ⁷ that the **genuineness of your faith**, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is **tested by fire**, may be found to **praise, honor, and glory** at the revelation of Jesus Christ...

- **From make-believer to true believer?** Pray for trials to find out where you stand
 1. Trials that only God can get you through
 2. Trials that will drive you to God
 3. Trials that will force you to realize your own inadequacy
 4. Trials that will turn make believers into true believers
 5. Trials that will mold weak believers into victorious overcomers...

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the **testing of your faith produces patience**. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, **lacking nothing**.

Psalm 66:10 For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined. ¹¹ You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs. ¹² You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us **out to rich fulfillment**.

- Trials produce patience and patience produces a rich/complete life
Pray for trials that you may be rich
Eternal Reward persevering though trials proving true faith
- **Be clothed with Righteousness: White Garments**

Revelation 19:8 And to [the Bride of Christ] it was **granted [gifted]** to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the **righteous acts of the saints**.

Be clothed in righteousness's [2] Get Saved/Get Real

- **Get saved:** Positional Righteousness...comes with initial package

2 Corinthians 5:21 For [God the Father] made [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the **righteousness of God in Him**.

- **Get real:** Practical Righteousness...*does not* come with initial package

1 Timothy 6:11 [Men/woman of God...] flee [sin] and **pursue righteousness**, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

- **Flee:** Our part? Run from sin.

2 Timothy 3:16 [All Scripture...] is profitable for ... for **instruction in righteousness**

- **Our daily walk:** Real kindness/real forgiveness/real selflessness/real sacrifice

See Clearly: Anoint yourselves with Holy Spirit Eye Salve

Romans 12:3 [Those saved by Jesus should not...] think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

- No place in child of God for pride/self-righteousness/self-sufficiency

Jesus prescription for the Luke-Warm? Get real.

1. Pray for Trials
 2. Walk in Righteousness
 3. See yourselves clearly...**sinners in desperate need of a Savior**
- Don't be discouraged at My rebuke/instruction...just do it

¹⁹ **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.**

Jesus shows His love and desire to restore by Rebuke and Chastisement

- **Love:** *gr*, *Phileo* [friendship] not *agape* as to beloved; i.e. saved
- **Rebuke:** rt. To chop wood/ to convict and bring to light
- **Chastisement:** Discipline; i.e. to disciple, train, instruct

Hebrews 12:5 [Read] "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

- **Chastening/Discipline:** Any Hardship no matter its origin
 1. Things God allows
 2. Things God actively does
 3. Things people do to us
 4. Things we cause ourselves...God will use all hardship to mold us...

Romans 8:28 ...we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son...**

- **Don't despise trials...instead embrace trials as discipline/training**

Don't run from trials: Squeeze every drop wisdom/growth out of them...

...7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

I don't feel guilty when I sin?

Q. What does a dead man feel when he is shot? Nothing

...9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily **be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?** 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the **peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**

- **Count it all Joy**...not the trial but the results

Peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who *have been* trained by it.

Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted, I went astray, But now I keep Your word.

- **As many as I love I rebuke and chasten. Feeling loved?**

19b... Therefore **be zealous and repent.**

Absolute truth demands a choice
Disregard My Words and be spit out or...**be Zealous and Repent**

- **Proper response to God's love through discipline?**
 1. **Be Zealous:** Envy/be greedy for God's change in you/pursue it with zeal
 2. **Repent:** Change of mind. Heartily turn from past sins/move far beyond

Concluding Remarks from Jesus to Laodicea the Lukewarm Church

²⁰ Behold, I **stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.**

- Jesus stands at the door of the church and knocks waiting for a response...
- **NOTE:** "If **anyone** hears/opens..." Church **and** Individuals in the church

Be zealous and repent: Invitation to Intimacy with Jesus

I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

- **Jesus loves to eat with His people:** In their Homes, on the Beach, Last Supper
- **Rapture:** Marriage as we meet in air consummated by **feast**

Revelation 19:9 'Blessed are those who are called to the **marriage supper of the Lamb!**'

- Jesus is bringing the food...

Luke 12:37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that **he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.**

²¹ To him who **overcomes** I will grant to **sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.**

Rather than being "Vomited out of Jesus mouth" ...
Overcomers will sit with Jesus on His throne!

2 Timothy If we endure, **We shall also reign with Him.**

Revelation 20:4 [Tribulation Saints] **lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

²² "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""

- **Last mention of the church until Revelation 22**

Laodicea Application: Jesus is "sickened" by churches/individuals with a lukewarm cowardly make-believe version of Christianity and calls them to be zealous and repent that they might be with Him forever. Pray for Trials, be clothed in Righteousness's, See yourself clearly

Summary Revelation 2-3 The Things which Are

- **Application:**
 1. Seven Literal churches in John's day
 2. Seven Church Ages in chronological order from AD 90 - today
 3. Individual Application for every believer

Every church/believer has a measure of all Seven Churches

"...let **him** hear what the Spirit says to the **churches.**"

...in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man [Rev. 1:12]

- All Seven churches received all Seven letters/Entire Book of Revelation

**How do we know these Seven Letters also apply to churches today
Not just to churches in John's day?**

Because the **imminent return of Christ** is mentioned in letters to Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea and that has **not happened yet** [Ch. 3 contains 3/4]

Because the **Great Tribulation** is mentioned in Chapter 2 regarding Thyatira and **has not happened yet**

- **Jesus judge the churches:** Continues today...

1 Peter 4:17 ...the time has come for judgment to **begin at the house of God**; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

7 Churches Individual Application

1. **Ephesus:** Loveless
 - **Remember** what God did for you
 - **Repent** from legalism, trying to earn God's favor, laying trip on everyone else
 - **Repeat** the deeds you did when you first fell in love with Jesus

2. **Smyrna:** Persecuted
 - Poor in man's eyes...rich in eyes of the Lord
 - Attacked for preaching grace living in freedom in Christ
 - No Rebuke only encouragement to continue/endure in face of opposition

3. **Pergamos:** Compromising
 - Allowing secular into our lives, homes, church
 - Mixing Holy with the un-holy
 - Deal with it quickly or Jesus will

4. **Thyatira:** Corrupt
 - Allowing false-teaching into lives, homes, churches
 - Following Jezebel Spirit: Rebellion/Idolatry/sexual immorality rather than God's
 - Repent/Come out/ or go into Great Tribulation

5. **Sardis:** Dead
 - Trying to live Christian life without Spirit of God
 - a) **Watch** Jesus return
 - b) **Strengthen** what little you have that is good
 - c) **Remember:** God's is ready/able to resurrect you by His Spirit
 - **Hold Fast:** God, His Word, good examples, testimony.
 - **Repent:** Act quickly received Truth from God

6. **Philadelphia:** Faithful
 - **Keep** His Word/**Did not deny** His Name
 - **Kept** from the Great Tribulation

Revelation 3:10 Because you **have kept** [past tense] My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

- Pillars in Temple identified as God's own w/ 3 inscriptions:
 - a) Name of God
 - b) Name of God's City
 - c) New Name for Jesus

7. **Laodicea:** Lukewarm
 - Cowardly? Milk toast? Mailable by the world? Fearful of ridicule
 - Be zealous for truth/bow to the authority of God's Word
 - Repent of bowing to man and bow to God
 - Pray for trials/Put on righteousness: Sit on Jesus throne or vomited out of Jesus mouth.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the **apostles' doctrine** and **fellowship**, in the **breaking of bread**, and **in prayers...46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. **And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

- **Concludes 2nd of Three Sections in Revelation**

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which you **have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which **will take place** after this.

- **Section 1: Ch. 1** Things you have seen Glorified Jesus Christ
- **Section 2: Ch. 2-3:** Things that are Church on Earth

Revelation 4:1 [Begins 3rd final section] **After these things** [church age] I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "**Come up here**, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

- **Section 3: Ch. 4-22** Things which will be Begins w/ Church in Heaven