Revelation 3 – 11 October 2026
"What's Your Issue: Episode 2 of 2"

Introduction

*Chap 2-3 is "the things that are" from our outline of Rev 1:19

*In Chap 2-3 Jesus will address specific messages to these seven churches in Asia Minor

*Within these 7 churches, we can see parallels to…
- *Global church characteristics thru ages of time
- *Church denominations today
- *Individuals (we'll primarily use this application)

*Each church had specific characteristics or issues that Jesus wanted to highlight…and so do we!
- *Example: The Rich Young Ruler in Mark 10

*These 7 churches give us the chance to…

1. ***Study the source*** of their strength & ours
   a. The attributes of Jesus from chap 1 are seen
2. ***Identify key issues*** in their life & ours
3. As well as see the ***results we all can rely on***

From chap 2 we asked: Are we prone to being…

1. A Callous Christian like Ephesus? (1-7)
2. A Christian Coward like Smyrna? (8-11)
3. A Contaminated Christian like Pergamos? (12-17)
4. A Compromised Christian like Thyatira? (18-29)

5th Church is Sardis [The Reformation Church of 1517-1700s AD] (3:1-6)

Read 3:1a

1. Jesus wants to be our ***source*** of power & drive
2. He 'has the 7 Spirits of God in His right hand'
   a. This represents the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Read Isa 11:1-2)
3. Everyone must rely on the Spirit for power
   a. Zec 4:1-10 – Spirit is given by God
   b. Jesus lived by the H.S.'s power (Luke 4:14)
   c. Paul relied on the H.S. to empower him, b/c he wasn't a great speaker (Read I Cor 2:4-5)
   d. We must rely on the Spirit (Act 1:8)

Read 3:1b-3a

1. As someone that began a beautiful garden but left off maintaining it
2. The ***issue***: Have we started but not completed the work for slothfulness? (***Are you careless?***)
    a. We need to forsake our own strength & methods – they will only cause burnout
    b. We need to rely on His strength & energy
3. Exp of false & true prophets (Read Mic 3:6-8)
    a. False prophets run out of self-propellent
    b. True prophets are always empowered by God
4. Often there's an outward show of life, when it's really dead…like King Saul
    a. He was rejected as being King yet remained on the throne for many more years
    b. He never maintained his spiritual life, only his flesh life

Read 3:3b-6 [Vs 5-7 shows the ***results***]

1. The ***results***: We'll be clothed in white for Jesus to boast of us before His Father

2. We're called to wake up before it's too late
    a. Don't put up with the sin (Read Eph 5:14)
3. We must show, not carelessness, but diligence
    a. Read Prov 22:29
4. What a scene it will be when Jesus introduces you to the Father (Read Matt 10:32-33)

6th Church is Philadelphia [The Missionary Church of 1700s-now AD] (3:7-13)

Read 3:7

1. Jesus wants to be our ***source*** of endurance & strength
2. "Key of David" in Isa 22 is seen as for those that found, thru trials, the way into the Kingdom of David & eternal life
3. Psm 18 tells us that the Lord is my Rock!

Read 3:8-9

1. Who are those that "say they're Jews" but are of the "synagogue of Satan?"

a. In John 8 the Pharisees said they were of their father Abraham, but Jesus denied this
b. Read Rom 2:28-29 – A true Jew is one who has the faith of Abraham

2. The ***issue***: Are you patient w/ enemies knowing God will see you thru? (***are you a crushed Christian?***)
a. II Cor 11:21-12:5 shows all that Paul went thru, but he knew his strength was from God
b. Read Gen 50:18, 20 – Joseph knew God was working good things
i. His brothers literally worship at his feet
c. Read II Tim 2:3-4 – Endure hardness

Read 3:10-11

1. Here again is that great promise of being kept from the Great Tribulation, raptured out before
2. "Those that dwell on the earth" – as opposed to believers that are 'seated in the heavenlies'
a. 'Earth dwellers' is used 10 times in Rev

Read 3:12-13

1. The ***results***: To be a rock, never to be shaken

a. Established, secure
b. No longer crushed under the weight of enemies and sin, but eternally able to stand

2. We'll be identified as belonging to God
   a. In His sanctuary w/ His strong name!

7th Church is Laodicea [The Last Days Church of 2000s-now AD] (3:14-22)

Read 3:14

1. Jesus wants to be our ***source*** of everything real & genuine without hypocrisy
2. The amen, faithful & true all speak of the incredible glory & value of Jesus
3. "The beginning of the creation of God"
   a. He's the cause of the creation of God
   b. He's the reason for the creation of God
   c. Phil 2:5-7 says "being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal w/ God"
   d. John 10:30 says "I & my Father are one"

Read 3:15-17 [Vs 15-20 shows the ***issue***]

1. The ***issue***: Are you humble enough to tell the truth about yourself in all situations? (***are you a Christian or a charlatan?***)
2. We have a high capacity of lying to ourselves
    a. Jam 1:22 – Doers of the Word, not hearers only deceiving yourself
    b. Read Luke 12:1-3 – beware of hypocrisy
3. Ask your spouse or best friend if you're hot, cold or lukewarm for Jesus

Read 3:18-20

1. The Lord offers us all the things we truly need
2. Notice that it's often thru difficulties that we find that Lord filling our needs
    a. It's gold that was refined in the fire
3. It's b/c the Lord loves us that He tells us of our faults and instructs us out of them
4. Notice the Lord is on the outside of this church

a. We must see our need ***and*** recognize that the only way to fill it is thru the life of Jesus

Read 3:21-22

1. The ***results***: We'll get to share in His image and genuineness
2. To sit in His throne with Him is to have been imparted His glory – to have become like Him
   a. Read I John 3:2

<u>Conclusion</u>

For each one of us, we're given the ability to…

1. **Study the Source:** How did Jesus role-model and teach how to believe, think and act
2. **Identify the Issue**: Ask other people if you have that issue
3. **Rely of the Results**: God will have His Word fulfilled
   a. Do you want to be on the winning side?

In reviewing all 7 churches, are you prone to be…

1. Callous like Ephesus?
    a. Return to be motivated by love for Jesus
2. A Coward like Smyrna?
    a. Don't fear what man can do, fear God
3. Contaminated like Pergamos?
    a. Remove and repent from idolatry
4. Compromised like Thyatira?
    a. As you stand in love, also stand in truth
5. Careless like Sardis?
    a. Be filled w/ the Spirit to be sober & diligent
6. Crushed like Philadelphia?
    a. Hope in the Lord's soon deliverance
7. A Charlatan like Laodicea?
    a. Humbly submit to the Lordship of Jesus

Did you notice that each church ends by the Lord saying, "He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear"?

We must choose, not just to hear, but to believe!!