

# After These Things

## 5 Day Devotional

### *Day 1*

Revelation 1:9–11, 19; 4:1–2

#### Devotional

John is an old man, exiled on a rocky prison island, cut off from comfort, friends, and ministry. Yet it is there, in a place that looks like defeat, that Jesus pulls back the curtain of heaven. Jesus doesn't just give John information; He changes his vantage point. "Come up here... I will show you what must take place after this." John is invited to see history, suffering, judgment, and reward not from the ground level, but from the throne room.

This is more than a prophetic timeline. It is a radical reorientation of how reality is seen. From earth, Rome looks unbeatable; from heaven, there is only one throne that matters. From earth, persecution looks senseless; from heaven, it is part of God's just and final victory. From earth, life feels random; from heaven, it is moving toward "what must take place." When you only see from the ground, your problems feel ultimate, and eternity feels distant and vague. When you "come up here" in faith, eternity becomes concrete, and this life becomes preparation.

Revelation doesn't exist to feed curiosity but to form clarity: there is a real throne, a real future, and what you do now really will matter after these things.

#### Application

**Reflection:** What situations in your life right now feel ultimate and overwhelming when you look at them only from an "earth-level" perspective? What kind of worries most often crowd out thoughts of eternity in your mind?

**Action:** Choose one decision you need to make this week (about time, money, or priorities) and deliberately ask, "How will this matter 'after these things'?"

**Prayer:** "Lord Jesus, You invited John to 'come up here' and see from heaven's perspective. Help me to see my life, my pain, and my future from Your throne, not just from the ground. Remind me that history is moving toward what must take place, under Your sovereign hand. Give me clarity, not fear, as I think about eternity, and shape the way I live today by what is coming. Amen."

## Day 2

### Revelation 2:1–5; 3:1–3

#### Devotional

When Jesus writes to the seven churches, He doesn't start with their doctrinal statements; He starts with their works. "I know your works." What they do exposes what they truly believe.

**Ephesus** is doctrinally solid but love-starved. They can spot false teaching, but their affection for Christ and compassion for the lost has cooled. Their orthodoxy without love betrays a belief that being right is more important than being in love with Jesus.

**Sardis** has a reputation problem: everyone thinks they are alive, vibrant, effective. But Jesus sees through the reputation to the reality: "You are dead." That means it's possible to appear successful, active, and "anointed" while heaven labels you lifeless. You can impress people and still grieve Christ.

Both churches expose a dangerous disconnect many Christians live with: saying one thing about Jesus while doing another. Revelation won't allow that split. The coming judgment, rewards, and eternal responsibilities make one truth unavoidable: your works are not the basis of your salvation, but they are the evidence of your faith.

Your daily habits, your hidden obedience, your quiet compromises all matter deeply. Jesus walks among His churches, and He's not counting activities; He's weighing love, sincerity, and faithfulness.

#### Application

**Reflection:** Where is there a gap between what you say you believe and what your daily life reveals (your time, purity, generosity, or priorities)? What kind of "reputation" do you have spiritually—and how closely do you think it matches what Jesus actually sees?

**Action:** Choose one area where love has grown cold (serving, prayer, worship, evangelism). Ask, "What would this look like if it flowed from genuine love for Jesus?" Then take one small step this week to move from duty to devotion (for example: instead of "I have to serve," consciously tell Him, "I get to serve You").

**Prayer:** "Lord Jesus, You know my works. You see past my words, my reputation, and my religious habits. Reveal where my love has cooled and where I am spiritually drowsy. Wake me up. Reignite my first love for You, and let my obedience be the natural overflow of a heart set on fire. Make what I do tell the truth about what I truly believe. Amen."

## Day 3

### Revelation 2:12–16, 18–21

#### Devotional

Pergamum and Thyatira lived where cultural pressure was intense. Pagan temples, idolatrous feasts, and sexualized worship were normal. New believers were coming out of these lifestyles, and some teachers were saying, "You're saved by grace. Don't worry too much about what you do with your body. God understands." Jesus calls this compromise out directly. These churches are "tolerating" false teaching that excuses sin. Teachers like Balaam and "Jezebel" are not denying Jesus in name; they are denying Him in practice by blessing what God calls sin.

This is not just ancient history. Today, entire churches and movements rewrite biblical teaching on sexuality, gender, and life in the name of "love," "inclusion," and "progress." But Jesus never separates His grace from His call: "Go and sin no more." To bend to culture is to break faith with Christ. Real grace does not just forgive sin; it leads you out of it. To be faithful in a Laodicean age means refusing a "customizable Jesus" and gladly submitting to the real, biblical Christ—even when it costs.

#### Application

**Reflection:** In what areas are you most tempted to adjust your convictions to fit cultural trends (sexual ethics, identity, abortion, entertainment, honesty)? How many times do you soften or stay silent about biblical truth out of fear of being labeled judgmental or unloving? What kind of "Jesus" do you functionally follow—one shaped by Scripture, or one shaped by culture and personal preference?

**Action:** Ask the Lord to show you one specific compromise in your life (media, relationships, sexual boundaries, speech). Make one concrete change this week that moves you toward purity and away from compromise.

**Prayer:** "Holy God, You are both gracious and holy, merciful and truthful. Guard my heart from creating a 'custom Jesus' who agrees with my culture and my sin. Give me courage to embrace Your Word where it confronts me and where it conflicts with the world around me. Let Your grace not only forgive my sin but empower me to leave it. Make me faithful, not fashionable. Amen."

## Day 4

### Revelation 4:2–4, 8–11

#### Devotional

In Revelation 4, John shows you the center of reality: a throne, a Person on the throne, and unending worship. Thunder, lightning, blazing lamps, strange living creatures covered in eyes, all of it communicates one thing: God is not like us. He is holy, other, overwhelming.

The four living creatures never tire of saying, "Holy, holy, holy." The 24 elders hold crowns, symbols of reward and honor. But in the presence of God's glory, they do the only thing that makes sense: they throw those crowns at His feet.

In heaven, worship is not a "segment" in a service; it is the atmosphere of existence. No one is bored. No one is evaluating the "setlist." No one is watching the clock. Why? Because the One on the throne is infinitely compelling, and every blessing they have has clearly come from Him. By contrast, our worship is often distracted, half-hearted, and self-focused. We come asking, "Will this bless me?" rather than, "How can I bless Him?" We evaluate the style instead of engaging the Savior.

This scene is not just a preview of heaven; it is a pattern for now. Casting crowns is more than a future image, it is a present posture: everything you have, every talent, every achievement, every "crown" belongs at His feet. Real worship is not just singing; it is surrender.

#### Application

**Reflection:** How many times do you approach worship (singing, prayer, Scripture) mostly asking, "Did I enjoy this?" instead of, "Was God honored by this?" What kind of "crowns" (achievements, talents, positions, possessions) are you most tempted to hold onto as your own? When was the last time you were genuinely moved to adore God simply for who He is, not just for what He does for you?

**Action:** The next time you worship (at church or somewhere else), consciously shift your focus: Before it starts, quietly pray, "Lord, this is for You." Sing (or read the lyrics) as a direct offering to Him, even if it's not your favorite song or style.

**Prayer:** "Lord, You are holy, holy, holy. You alone are worthy to receive glory, honor, and power. Forgive me for making worship about my preferences and my comfort. Teach me to cast my crowns at Your feet—to treat every gift and achievement as Yours, not mine. Give me a heart that delights in honoring You now, as I will forever. Amen."

## Day 5

Revelation 3:7–8, 14–17; 22:12

### Devotional

Two churches. Two verdicts.

**Philadelphia** is weak by worldly standards—little power, likely small and unimpressive. But Jesus delights in them: they have “kept my word and have not denied my name.” As a result, He sets before them an “open door” of opportunity and promises to honor their faithfulness.

**Laodicea**, on the other hand, is self-satisfied. They see themselves as rich, resourced, and needing nothing. But Jesus’ assessment is brutally different: “wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.” Their lukewarmness makes Him sick. Their comfort has numbed their need for Christ.

These two churches represent two paths for Christians and congregations in the “church age”: Faithful weakness: limited resources, real obedience, open doors. Proud comfort: abundant resources, spiritual apathy, closed fellowship with Christ. Into this, Jesus speaks the final word of the Bible’s last chapter: He is coming soon and will repay each person “for what he has done.” This is not about earning salvation; it is about stewarding it. Eternity will not erase the significance of your choices; it will reveal it.

You are not just passing time on earth; you are being prepared for eternal responsibility and joy. Every act of obedience, every unseen sacrifice, every quiet act of faithfulness is noticed by the One who says, “Behold, I am coming soon.” Are you living in a way that honors Christ, knowing what must take place after these things?

### Application

**Reflection:** What kind of Christian do you resemble more right now—Philadelphia (faithful but weak) or Laodicea (comfortable but lukewarm)?

**Action:** Ask God to show you one “open door” He has already placed before you (a person to love, a ministry to serve, a conversation to start, a hidden act of obedience). Decide on one simple step you will take this week to walk through that door.

**Prayer:** “Lord Jesus, You are coming soon, and You will bring Your reward with You. Guard me from Laodicean lukewarmness and self-sufficiency. Make me like the church in Philadelphia—weak perhaps in the world’s eyes, but faithful to Your Word and Your name. Show me the open doors You have placed before me, and give me courage to walk through them. Let my life today be shaped by what must take place after these things. Amen.”