

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

### "THE THINGS WHICH ARE"

#### CHAPTER THREE

#### **I. THE MESSAGE TO SARDIS - THE DEAD CHURCH (3:1-6)**

A. Commended them for having some that were faithful and had not \_\_\_\_\_ themselves (4).

B. Condemned their testimony and works (1,2).

1. Notice this church had a name as being a spiritual church, but it was really spiritually dead and without power (1).

This is like so many churches today with their dead orthodoxy and ritualistic services. They go through the formalities but no one ever gets \_\_\_\_\_ in or through them.

2. Notice that the works of this church were condemned because they were not "perfect" or \_\_\_\_\_ (2). In other words the church was not doing things that would produce or bring things to fruition.

It's one thing for a church to hold services, it's something else for a church to fulfill its purpose of reaching \_\_\_\_\_ and seeing them

C. Told them to correct the way they were doing things (2-3).

1. To do this they were instructed to \_\_\_\_\_ the things which were ready to die (2). This no doubt refers to the things the Lord has called and commissioned the church to do.

2. To correct their situation they needed also to remember what they had received and to keep it (3). The things they had heard and received was a \_\_\_\_\_ to reach others for Christ (Matt. 28:19,20).

3. This involved repentance or a turn-around or the Lord would judge them when they didn't expect it (3).

D. Challenged them concerning their service (5).

1. Notice Christ is presented to this church as the One who has the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the churches (1). The

reason there is so little fruition in many churches is because folks don't listen to the \_\_\_\_\_ and yield to the leadership of the \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The challenge for overcomers of this church would be to walk with Christ, be clothed in white raiment, and not be blotted out of the book of \_\_\_\_\_. Christ would also confess their names (5).

The book of life or "of the living" apparently lists the names of everyone. When a person who has reached the age of accountability dies unsaved, his name is blotted out of this book. When a person gets saved his name is written in the Lamb's book of life also and remains in the book of the living (Note Ex. 32:32; Psa. 29:28).

## **II. THE MESSAGE TO PHILADELPHIA - THE FAITHFUL CHURCH (3:7-13)**

- A. Commended them for keeping the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ and being faithful to Him (8).
- B. Had no condemnation nor correction for them. Philadelphia means "brotherly love" and refers historically to the missionary church of the past 250 years.
- C. Challenged them to continue in their faithful service (10-12).
  1. Christ is presented to this church as the One having the keys to open and shut \_\_\_\_\_ (7). In Isa. 22:20-24 we read of Eliakim the son of Hilkiah who had the key to all the treasures of King David. Only when he opened the door was it opened, and when he closed the door it was closed. Christ is the antitype of Eliakim who has the keys to open doors of opportunity for service.
  2. Notice Christ had given this church an open door of service because they had been \_\_\_\_\_ (8).
  3. Notice because of their faithfulness to Christ they were promised vindication concerning false brethren and to be spare the hour of testing or the tribulation period (9-10).
  4. The challenge for the overcomers of this church was to have a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven (12). The expression "pillar" symbolizes a place of permanence and Christ's name upon them symbolizes ownership by Him.

### III. THE MESSAGE TO LAODICEA – THE LUKEWARM CHURCH (3:14-22)

A. Had absolutely no words of \_\_\_\_\_ for them at all.

B. Condemned them for their spiritual poverty, shame and blindness (15-8)

1. Notice their spirituality was diluted so that they were neither hot nor cold. They weren't altogether worldly or altogether spiritual but rather they had a mixture of both which Christ condemned (15-16).

2. This church thought they had everything they needed because they had \_\_\_\_\_ wealth. They didn't realize they were in a state of sinfulness, shame and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ (17). Because of their boasts Christ advised them to acquire real riches, some clothes for their shameful wickedness and some salve for their eyes that they might see (18). These things come only through faith in Christ and show that this church was full of unbelievers.

C. Told them to correct their sinful condition (19-20)

1. As an incentive for believers to repent and be zealous in spiritual things Christ reminds them of how He deals with those He \_\_\_\_\_ (19).

2. As for salvation and fellowship for those who were not saved Christ lays down the \_\_\_\_\_ for them (20).

D. Gave them a challenge to consider (21).

1. Those who were overcomers would sit with Christ on His \_\_\_\_\_ (21).

2. Notice Laodicea means "\_\_\_\_\_ of the people" and refers to the apostate church of the last days which is democratic and no longer follows the \_\_\_\_\_ that God has given. To this church Christ is presented as the One with the final word and authority (14).

The present day apostate church of the last days does not recognize the word and authority of Christ. It is materially \_\_\_\_\_ but spiritually in \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Notice Christ is pictured outside the door of the apostate church of the last days (20).