

REVELATION Chapter 3

I. THE CHURCH IN SARDIS, 3:1-6

A. COMMENDATION:

1. None to the church as a whole.
2. Some, however, had not defiled their garments (verse 4).

B. CONDEMNATION: Spiritually dead! *The Lord knew their true condition (Matt. 6:1-18) that they were dead (1 Timothy 5:6).*

C. EXHORTATION & WARNING:

1. Be watchful – strengthen the things which remain, which are ready to die (Eph. 5:14).
2. Remember & Repent
3. The Lord will come on them as a thief – JUDGMENT (2:5, 16, 22-24)

D. PROMISE TO THE FAITHFUL FEW:

Overcomers

1. will be clothed in white raiment
2. will not have names blotted out of the book of life
3. will have name confessed before the Father and his angels

II. THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA, 3:7-13

A. SPEAKER:

1. He that is holy (Isa. 60:9, 14; Mark 1:24; Luke 4:34; Acts 2:27; 3:14)
2. He that is true (John 14:6)
3. He that hath the key of David: *the Messiah's authority to open the kingdom (cf. Isaiah 22:21-23; Acts 2:30).*

B. COMMENDATION:

1. Works – an open door before them (opportunity & fellowship – see John 10:1-5).
2. Have a little strength
3. Have kept Christ's word and not denied His name.

C. CONDEMNATION: none

D. WARNING: none

E. EXHORTATION: Hold fast that which you have - let no man take your crown.

F. PROMISES:

1. Those of the synagogue of Satan (2:9) will not prevail over God's people.
2. Jesus shall keep them from the hour of temptation.
3. Overcomers will be a pillar in the temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 2:5), and have God's name written on them ("name of my God" – "name of the city of my God" – "my new name").

The church in Philadelphia was in good shape – small, lacking great ability, but acceptable to God! Our strength is not in numbers, but in faith, truth, commitment, and spiritual might.

III. CHURCH OF THE LAODICEANS, 3:14-22

A. COMMENDATION: none

B. CONDEMNATION:

1. They had become lukewarm – neither hot nor cold.
2. They were guilty of empty boasting.

C. EXHORTATION:

1. Buy gold tried in the fire (trials – cf. 1 Corinthians 3:9-15; 1 Peter 1:6-7).
2. Buy white raiment to cover your nakedness.
 - a. White raiment is the righteousness of the saints – Rev. 19:8
 - b. Spiritual "nakedness" reveals their lack of faith, conviction, and strength – they should be clothed with righteousness and the whole armor of God!
3. Anoint eyes with eye-salve to see (compare Matthew 13:15, 16)
4. Be zealous and repent!

D. WARNING:

1. The Lord rebukes and chastens those whom He loves.
2. The Lord is sickened by lukewarm-ness.
3. The Lord desires to fellowship with them ("I stand at the door and knock").

E. PROMISE: Overcomers will sit with the Lord in His throne (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 1:13).

The Seven Churches of Revelation

	Commendation	Criticism	Instruction	Promise
Ephesus (2:1-7)	Rejects evil, perseveres, has patience	Love for Christ no longer fervent	Do the works you did at first	The tree of life
Smyrna (2:8-11)	Gracefully bears suffering	None	Be faithful until death	The crown of life; will not be hurt by the second death
Pergamos (2:12-17)	Keeps the faith of Christ	Tolerated immorality, idolatry, and heresies	Repent	Hidden manna and a white stone with a new name
Thyatira (2:18-29)	Love, service, faith, patience is greater than at first	Tolerates cult of idolatry and immorality. Jezebel	Judgment coming; keep the faith	Rule over nations and receive morning star
Sardis (3:1-6)	Some have kept the faith	A dead church	Repent; strengthen what remains; remember	Faithful honored and clothed in white; name in book of life; Christ will confess them before the Father
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	Perseveres in the faith; a little power; have not denied My name	None	Keep the faith	A pillar in the temple; a place in God's presence, a new name, and the New Jerusalem
Laodicea (3:14-22)	None	Indifferent	Be zealous and repent	Share Christ's throne

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⁵Thomas Nelson Publishers. 1996. *Nelson's complete book of Bible maps & charts : Old and New Testaments.* (Rev. and updated ed.). Thomas Nelson: Nashville, Tenn.