

Sunday, March 17, 2024

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: Letters to Sardis and Philadelphia

Series: Revelation ... 6 **Text:** Revelation 3:1 - 13

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation to BELIEVE there is a personal application to each of the seven letters to the seven churches.

Introduction:

Last week in our devotional from Revelation we considered the letters to Pergamum and Thyatira:

~ 1) Letter to the church at Pergamum: its name meant height or elevation and was referred to as the city of the serpent (the city symbol was Aesculapius and Caduceus). Holy Spirit said of Pergamum, “I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is.” The character of Jesus Christ shown to the “sharp two-edged sword.” Application: stay true to the Word and do not market your gifts.

~ 2) Letter to Thyatira: name meant ‘daughter’ and had idol worship which some believed to have originated in Babylon. Character of Jesus Christ revealed, “who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.” Application is 1 John 5:20 – 21, “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. (21) Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”

1. Letter to the Church at Sardis:

~ **Name of the church** is Sardis and meant ‘red ones.’ The mythical King Midas is associated with the ancient city of Sardis. Sardis was built high on a small plateau and they regarded their position as secure to the point of being impregnable. History proved them to be very wrong. A phrase that became associated with Sardis was – ‘like a thief in the night.’

~ **Title of the Lord Jesus Christ;** “The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.”

~ **Commendation:** They receive no commendation.

~ **Reproof** (vs. 1 – 2),

~ “You have a reputation on being alive, but you are dead.”

~ “Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.”

~ **Exhortation** (vs. 3), “Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.”

~ “Remember, then, what you received and heard.”

Do I regularly review what I believe.

Hebrews 5:11 – 6:2; John 17;

2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:16 – 17

~ “Keep it and repent.”

~ “If you will not wake up,”

This is a divine alarm clock that I must respond to!!!

~ **Promise** (vs. 5), “The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garment, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.”

~ Matthew 10:32, “So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,”

~ Revelation 12:11, “And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

~ Close (vs. 6), “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

APPLICATION: We, as followers of Christ Jesus, are only secure in Him and respond to Him with humility and a repentant heart. Proverbs 3:34; 1 Peter 5:5 – 6, Philippians 2:5 – 9 and James 4:6 – 10

2. Letter to the Church at Philadelphia:

~ **Name of church** (vs. 7); Philadelphia means friendly city, some call it the city of brotherly love.

~ **Title of the Lord Jesus Christ** (vs. 7), “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.’”

~ Isaiah 22:20 – 25, Is this Christ Jesus hung on the cross for you and I, on Him hangs the whole honor of the Triune God and the promise of His coming reign and kingdom?

~ **Commendation** (vs. 8 - 11):

~ vs. 8, “I know your works.”

~ vs. 8, “I know that you have but a little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.”

~ vs. 9, “they will learn that I have loved you.”

~ vs. 10, “Because you have kept my word about patient endurance”

~ **Reproof:** they did not receive a reproof!

~ **Exhortation** (vs. 11), “I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.”

~ **Promise** (vs. 12), “The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.”

~ **Close** (vs. 13), “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

APPLICATION: 2 Corinthians 12:9 – 10, “But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of weakness, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (10) For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Conclusion: