

Revelation 3

Review of Ch. 2:

Four parts of each letter?

1. Description of Jesus
2. Good points
3. Bad points
4. Blessings and promises

Letter to Ephesus:

Good deeds? Hard workers; generally no false teaching there

Bad points? No enthusiasm left

Message of Jesus? Repent

Letter to Smyrna:

-Description of the town? Jewish headquarters = synagogue of Satan

-Main opponents there? The Jews

-Length of their persecution? 10 days

-Reward for remaining faithful? Crown of Life

Letter to Pergamum

-Satan's throne there? Temples to Zeus and to Aesculapius (staff with serpent)

-Martyr in Pergamum? Antipas

Letter to Thyatira

-Main problem there? A lady false-teacher

Revelation 3.1-6 – The letter to church at Sardis

Sardis was famous for its woolen factories; they were the first to discover how to dye wool

-They worshipped the goddess Artemis (Greek name) or Diana (Roman name)

-The town was in a state of decline; it had degenerated

V 1 - **Description of Jesus?** He had the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars

-Description of the church? A reputation for being alive, but really dead

V 2 – **In what sense were they dead?** They would start programs, but would not finish them

-No converts being made; just a lot of "activity" – all light, but no heat

V 3 – **Advice of Jesus?** Wake up, or else

V 4-5 – **Compliment?** Some still worthy there

-White = purity (dress for a bride), no pollution

-Resurrected bodies

V 6 – **Final blessing?**

Revelation 3.7-13 – The letter to the church at Philadelphia

-In a valley with many earthquakes

-All compliments for this congregation (and also for Smyrna)

V 7 – The description of Jesus? Holy, true, has the key of David....

V 8 – "Open door" – general reference to great potential for growth, missionary work, etc.

-**Size of the church at Philadelphia?** "little power" = small in number

-**Compliment of Jesus?** You have not denied the faith

V 9 – Main opponents at Philadelphia? The Jews

-This verse seems to say that Christ would humble the Jews by some event

V 10 – In return for faithfulness, what would Christ do for the church there? No

persecution

-A reference to persecution from the Roman Empire

V 11 – Advice to Philadelphia? Hold fast to what you have

V 12 – Advice to the faithful?

-Note the significance for this earthquake prone area

-Look up photographs of Philadelphia – many ancient temples in ruins – only the pillars are standing (from all the earthquakes in the area)

Revelation 3.14-22 – The letter to the church at Laodicea

-At the junction of 3 important roads and a banking center in the First Century

-They manufactured clothes, carpets, black wool

-A medical school was there that specialized in eye diseases, and a special eye ointment was developed there

V 14 – Description of Jesus? Powerful!

V 15-16 – Problem with the church at Laodicea?

-**Any Nicolaitans?** No evidence of that false teaching

-Not head trouble, but heart trouble!

-Some food tastes good cold; some tastes good hot

-But very few foods taste good lukewarm

-For a person who has swallowed poison, one way to get him to vomit is to give him a glass of lukewarm water (if no Ipecac is available to induce vomiting)

V 17 – Their problem? Too arrogant, relied on their money

V 18 – Advice from Jesus? Get things straightened out

V 19 – Be zealous

V 20 – Was Jesus knocking at the door of a non-Christian (as it is normally interpreted by the denominational world)? No, he was knocking at the door of Christians who had grown tired of the faith and who were "lukewarm" and therefore in a lost condition

-This is another attack on the once-saved-always-saved doctrine

V 21 – The lukewarm Christian who stirs up his faith and returns to the Lord will sit with Jesus someday

V 22 – Again we are urged to hear what Christ is saying to these 7 churches – they had many of the same problems that we see around us today among sister congregations

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