

Revelation 3

v. 1-6 - The Church in *Sardis*

- God refers to himself as “the one with the 7 spirits and the 7 stars. God holds all these things in His hands. Nothing was made that His hand had not provided.
- Sin #5 **dead as a corps** – they think that they are alive but their faith is dead due to a lack of works. See James for a further discussion on how Faith without works is dead.
- Blessing – **white garments** – throughout the Bible the concept of being clothed in white is a sign of purity and innocence. Here God the Son uses this to show how he will save us from the wrath of the Father.
- Blessing – **The Book of Life** – this refers to the very heart of God. The Father does not need a book to show those whom He calls His children. This can provide for us a point of contact with the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep.

v. 7-13 – *Philadelphia* – the city of brotherly love

- God refers to himself as **the key of David**. God opens doors for us, which no one can close. This refers to the many opportunities that God provides for us, so that we can spread His Word.
- Sin #6 – **don’t recognize these open doors before us**. This is basically missed opportunities that God has provided for us to spread the Gospel message.
- We can see in this part of the Blessing our very own baptisms. God will make those who conquer into a **pillar** and will **write on them HIS name**. We are a chosen people a royal priesthood, and a people belonging to God.

v. 14-22 – *Laodicea*

- This is where things can get a little on the tricky side. Here God refers to himself as the *source of the creation of God*. That may not seem all that tricky but when you realize that God the Son is speaking here, this tends to get a little more complicated. In the beginning, when God the Father created the heavens and the earth, *it was the Son* who said “let there be...” and the Father was the source of where everything came from. So the Son asked for “light” and the Father put light there. Here however, the Son is not only asking for the things created, but He is also the one who puts them there. Christ here is referring to the New Heaven and the New Earth. This concept will come up again in Chapter 21 where greater detail will be given.
- V. 15-16 – Sin #7 – **LUKEWARM CHRISTIANS**. This speaks to those people who are neither on fire FOR God **nor** on fire AGAINST God. They are simply OK with whatever happens. God desires His children to be motivated to act not just to sit around and wait for things to happen around them.
- V. 17 – This verse is referring to our spiritual welfare not physical/material wealth.
- V. 19 – In this verse we see Jesus referring to discipline. Refer to Hebrews 12:4-11 for true love being found in discipline. We can see this brought out again when we look at God as a Father.
- V. 20 – This verse and the events in it are directed toward those who are already Christians. We can do nothing to get Christ, not even open the door.
- V. 21 – *Blessing* – God will allow the one who stays faithful to **sit on the throne with the Father**.

Questions to Ponder

1. The words of Christ to the church of Sardis speak of the sin of Dead Faith. What does Scripture say regarding your faith and what it should look like when it is alive? See James 2:1-26.
2. When addressing the church of Philadelphia, Jesus refers to Himself as the “Key of David.” What door does the Key of David open for you as a Child of God? How do you respond to that open door?
3. God has chosen you to live a life of service and love. You have been given a new name in Christ Jesus. How does this new identity affect your daily life? What kind of things are now different for you as a “Child of God”?