

# Lessons From Revelation

---

## The Seven Churches Of Asia Pt 2

(Rv 3:5)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Afternoon,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From Revelation.”
  - a.
    - a. Some things that we must always keep in mind when studying this book.
      - i. The book was written to be fulfilled “shortly.”
        1. **Rv 1:1a** “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place...”<sup>1</sup> (NKJV)
      - ii. The book was written as “signs” or in an “apocalyptic” style.
        1. **Rv 1:1b** “...And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John” (NKJV)
      - iii. The book was written so all understand that even when things seem their worse Christ is still in control and He will always come out as the victor.
        1. **Rv 6:10** “They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?””
        2. **Rv 6:12-17** “When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood...17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”
    - b. Last week we examined the Revelator’s charge to four of the seven churches in Asia the book is written to.
      - i. This week we are going to examine the Revelator’s charge to the final three churches of Asia.
3. With that in mind let us examine what the Christ had to say to the last three churches of Asia.

### I. The Church At Sardis

- A. The good
  1. Though the congregation was in dire straits there were some that had not defiled their garments.
    - i. The idea here is that of staying faithful under extreme circumstances such as all the unfaithfulness that was going on.
- B. The bad
  1. They had a reputation of being alive but they were dead.
    - i. The idea here is that all those around them thought they were “the right stuff” but they were far from it.
      - a. “There are few things better organized than graveyards, but there is little life there.” (Restoring A Congregation by Parrish, Eddie pg. 3)

---

<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

## Lessons From Revelation

---

- ii. They had fooled all but God.
  - a. **Ga 6:7** “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”
- 2. They had not perfected anything spiritually.
  - i. The idea here is that they had dabbled in a lot of things and perfect none.
- C. Restoring one that thinks he is alive and doing great
  - 1. First that one needs to “wake up.”
    - i. How can anyone repent if they are blinded by arrogance by not making sure they are right with God always testing themselves.
      - a. **II Co 13:5** “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”
  - 2. Second that one needs to “strengthen what remains.”
    - i. One can only be restored if they make the conscience decision to focus on the works they were created for and grow in them otherwise they will simply fall into the same problem as before.
      - a. **II Pt 1:8** “For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
  - 3. Third that one needs to repent reflecting on his/her biblical knowledge.
    - i. One can only be restored if they understand what repentance is through the diligent study of God Word.
- D. Thus...
  - 1. **Ep 2:10** “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

## II. The Church At Philadelphia

- A. The good
  - 1. Their works were known and a door had been opened to them.
    - i. The idea here is that whenever we are striving to do our best doors will be opened and we must therefore seize the opportunity.
      - a. **Ep 5:16** “making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”
  - 2. They had power.
    - i. The idea here is that it was a small congregation and not a large one.
      - a. **Ro 1:16** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”
  - 3. They had kept God’s Word.
    - i. The idea here is obvious that they were obedient to God in doing the will of the Father.
      - a. **Mt 7:21** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

## Lessons From Revelation

---

4. They had not denied Jesus' name.
  - i. The idea, once again, is that they had not given up on Christianity even though they had been highly persecuted.
    - a. **Mt 10:33** "but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."
- B. The bad
  1. There is none.
- C. Thus...
  1. **II Ti 2:11-12** "The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us"

### III. The Church At Laodicea

- A. The good
  1. There is none.
- B. The bad
  1. They were lukewarm.
    - i. The idea here is that they had not decided to follow God fully or the world fully.
      - a. **I Ki 18:21** "And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word."
    - ii. Being this way will encourage God to "vomit us out of His mouth."
      - a. Is there a more wretched description of a child of God?
  2. They were self-reliant.
    - i. The idea here is that they did not think they needed anyone including God.
      - a. **II Ti 6:10** "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."
    - ii. "While they thought they didn't need anyone, they didn't even realize that they were wretched, poor, miserable, blind and naked. There is none so blind as he who just will not see (2 Pet. 3:5)." (Restoring A Congregation by Parrish, Eddie pg. 3)
- C. Restoration of one that is self-reliant and lukewarm
  1. This one must repent of his/her self-reliance and turn to God for their needs.
    - i. **Mt 6:33** "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."
  2. This one must repent with zeal and fervor because that is the only way to overcome a lukewarm attitude accepting the discipline of God.
    - i. **II Co 7:9-10** "As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. 10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death."

## Lessons From Revelation

---

D. Thus...

1. **II Pt 2:21** "For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them."

### CONCLUSION

1. As we examine these three congregations we can easily see the dangers of falling out of favor with God and the joys of staying faithful to Him.
  - a. Let it be said of us that we always strive for faithfulness to the Lord.
2. Question: Are you doing what it takes to make this congregation be considered "faithful" to God?
  - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**