



W E L C O M E

— THE STUDY OF —
REVELATION

WHICH IS, WHICH WAS, AND WHICH IS TO COME

Revelation 3: 1 (NASB)

"To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, and yet you are dead.

Revelation 3: 2 (NASB)

Be constantly alert, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

Question?

Why does this Church need to be constantly alert?

Revelation 3: 2 (NASB)

Be constantly alert, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

strengthen the things that remain,
which were about to die

What does this mean?

strengthen the things that remain,
which were about to die

This is telling us that there are a few Christians in the church who are following Christ and his teachings, but even they are about to accept the corrupt doctrine or possibly leave the church.

Revelation 3: 2 (NASB)

Be constantly alert, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

I have not found your deeds completed

What is this saying?

I have not found your deeds completed

They fall short of what is required
of God.

Is there such a thing as being
almost a Christian?

Revelation 3: 3 (NASB)

So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Then if you are not alert, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent

What are they supposed to keep?

This church is not asked to remember what it once was, but to remember what they had received and heard from Godly people when the church started.

*if you are not alert, I will come like a thief,
and you will not know at what hour I will
come to you*

This is speaking about Christ's return to the world in judgement. In other words this is a warning that when Jesus returns to judge the world there will be many in this church who are still present because they were never saved.

Which is larger in number few or many?

Matthew 7: 13-14: Jesus says "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

Then in Verses 22-23: Jesus says:
Many will say to Me on that day,
'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in
Your name, and in Your name cast
out demons, and in Your name
perform many miracles?' And then
I will declare to them, 'I never knew
you; leave Me, you who practice
lawlessness.'

Revelation 3: 4 (NASB)

But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.



Turn to: Galatians 3: 27

Galatians 3: 27 (NASB)

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.



Turn to: John 13: 9-10

John 13: 9-10 (NASB)

Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, otherwise he is completely clean. And you are clean—but not all of you."

*few people in Sardis who have not
soiled their garments*

Again this is telling us that only a few in Sardis have had their clothes washed white in the blood of Christ and many are still walking around in their soiled garments.

Revelation 3: 5 (NASB)

The one who overcomes will be clothed the same way, in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

The one who overcomes will be clothed
the same way

Who is the one who overcomes
referring to?

The one who overcomes will be clothed
the same way

This is again saying that there are only a few Christians in this church and they will be dressed in white, because their stains have been removed by the blood of Christ like all other Christians.

Revelation 3: 5 (NASB)

The one who overcomes will be clothed the same way, in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Question?

What is the book of life?

What is the book of life?

This will be made crystal clear in
Revelation 21

Upon conception God has created life and that life is so precious to God that He writes the name of each person He created in the book of life. Everyone, regardless of their lifestyle and faith, has their name written in the book of life when they were created.

When you become a Christian
your name is then also written in
in the Lambs book of life.

David also explains this to us!

What is the book of life?

Psalm 69: 27-28 (NASB)

Add guilt to their guilt, And may they not come into Your righteousness.

May they be wiped out of the book of life, And may they not be recorded with the righteous.

At judgement those who's names are not found written in the lambs book of life will have their names blotted out of the book of life. In other words they are considered by God to have never existed, they will forever be forgotten. Their names are blotted out.

Revelation 3: 5 (NASB)

The one who overcomes will be clothed the same way, in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

*I will confess his name before My
Father and before His angels*

Matthew 10: 32 (NASB)

*"Therefore, everyone who
confesses Me before people, I will
also confess him before My Father
who is in heaven."*

Revelation 3: 6 (NASB)

The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Jesus	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodiceans
<i>Commendation/ Encouragement/ Promise</i>	Works, labor, perseverance, patience. You cannot stand those that are evil. Found false apostles liars. Labored for my Name and not become weary. You hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans (which I also hate).	Works, tribulation, poverty. I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews but are a synagogue of Satan. You are physically poor but spiritually rich.	Works, You hold fast to my Name and did not deny My faith, even in the face of martyrdom. I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is.	Works, love, service, faith, perseverance. Your works now are more than the first.	You have a few names who have not defiled their garments. They will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.		
<i>Rebuke</i>	You've left your first love.	NONE	You have those who hold the doctrine of Balaam (idolatry and sexual immorality). Nicolaitans.	You allow Jezebel (false prophetess) to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and idolatry. She did not repent- no longer may.	Your faith is not complete before God.		
<i>Admonition</i>	Remember from where you've fallen; repent, and do the first works.	Do not fear what you will suffer. Some will be imprisoned to be tested and have tribulation. Be faithful to death and I will give you life.	Repent	Repent or I will judge you according to your works. To the faithful: hold fast what you have until I come.	Be watchful and strengthen what little remains. Remember what you have received and heard, hold fast and repent.		
<i>Ultimatum</i>	Repent or your church will be removed from its place.	NONE	Repent or I will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.	Tribulation, unless you repent of your deeds	If you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief.		
<i>To those who overcome</i>	I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.	You shall not be hurt by the second death.	I will give some of the hidden manna to eat and a white stone with a new name written on it which no one knows but him who receives it.	I will give ruling power over the nations, as I also have received from My Father. And I will give him the Morning Star.	He will be clothed in white garments. I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but will confess his name before My Father and His angels.		

Revelation 3: 7 (NASB)

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

Church in Philadelphia

Philadelphia was located on the Cogamus River, 28 miles southeast of Sardis.—



BLACK SEA

Byzantium
(Istanbul)

MARMARA
SEA

Nicaea

Prusa

Cyzicus

Abydos

MYSIA

BITHYNIA

Troas

Adramyttium

Assos

Lesbos

Mitylene

Pergamum

ASIA

Thyatira

TURKEY

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

Hierapolis

Laodicea

Colossae

PHRYGIA

Patmos

Samos

Miletus

CARIA

Halicarnassus

Cnidus

Rhodes

Rhodes

LYCIA

Perga

Attalia

Patara

Myra

Church in Philadelphia

This city originally known as Rabbath-ammon and was renamed in honor of the king of Pergamos "Attalus II" who was given the title of "Philadelphus" because of his loyalty to his elder brother, Eumenes II, who was the king of Lydia.

Church in Philadelphia

Philadelphia means "lover of his brother" or "city of brotherly love." It was given this name because a false rumor of king Eumenes' assassination (Attalus' brother) led to Attalus' acceptance of the crown, which he relinquished when his brother returned to Greece.

Church in Philadelphia

Also, Attalus resisted Roman encouragement to overthrow his brother Eumenes and become king.

Church in Philadelphia

A great earthquake which devastated twelve cities in the very district where these seven churches lay (17 A.D.) was particularly destructive in Philadelphia, due to its being nearest the fault line. Philadelphia was also called the "city of many earthquakes." Some of the citizens refused any longer to live within the city.

Philadelphia



Revelation 3: 7 (NASB)

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

He who is holy, who is true

He who is holy means God. Jesus is saying I am God.

Mark 1: 24 (NASB)

saying, "What business do you have with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are: the Holy One of God!"

Revelation 3: 7 (NASB)

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

who has the key of David

A key indicates control or authority over the treasure; therefore, having the Key of David is saying that Jesus is in control of the treasures of heaven (Jerusalem and the New Jerusalem) and the kingdom of heaven.

Revelation 3: 7 (NASB)

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

who opens and no one will shut, and who
shuts and no one opens

What does this mean to you?

*who opens and no one will shut, and who
shuts and no one opens*

I believe this is again showing Jesus' authority over the New Jerusalem or Heaven. Who He allows in, no one can keep out and who He wants to keep out, no one can let in.

who opens and no one will shut, and who
shuts and no one opens

The previous passage combined with this passage is saying that Jesus holds the key to heaven so He is the only one who can grant or deny access into heaven. Jesus not only holds the key to heaven, remember in chapter 1 we saw that He also holds the key to hell.

Revelation 3: 8 (NASB)

'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have followed My word, and have not denied My name.

*I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before
you an open door which no one can shut*

What does this mean to you?

I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut

Jesus is saying you are My children because I see your deeds, I see you are following My teachings. See, I have opened the door to heaven for you which no one can shut. In other words Your name is permanently written in the Lambs Book of Life.

Revelation 3: 8 (NASB)

'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have followed My word, and have not denied My name.

because you have a little power

What does this mean to you?

because you have a little power

Many scholars believe the word for little power is translated from a Greek word which means small in numbers and lacking worldly resources. If you have little resources, who's strength do you rely on?

because you have a little power

I believe this is actually a commendation from Jesus that this Church does not rely on its own strength, but on the strength of God. It does not mean they were lacking spiritual power.

Revelation 3: 8 (NASB)

'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have followed My word, and have not denied My name.

and have followed My word

Are you starting to see a major topic that Jesus is expressing over and over?

and have followed My word

A Church must maintain sound doctrine and cannot allow the world or satan to influence, change or water down God's Word and His laws written within. This Church did not replace God's Word with anything.

Revelation 3: 8 (NASB)

'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have followed My word, and have not denied My name.

have not denied my name

This Church was not afraid to stand their ground and pray in the name of Jesus in public where they faced persecution. They spoke the Truth.

Revelation 3: 9 (NASB)

Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.

I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie

Apparently Philadelphia was large enough to have a local Jewish synagogue, but they are not living like true Jews and have been attacking this small church. This is similar to what was happening in Smyrna.

I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie

This also represents Jews who attended the Church and tried to force Christians to follow Jewish tradition.

Revelation 3: 9 (NASB)

Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie— I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.

*I will make them come and bow down before
your feet*

How would it make you feel to know that the ones persecuting you will be forced to fall at your feet and admit you were right and they were wrong?

Revelation 2: 28-29 (NASB)

and I will give him the morning star. The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Revelation 3: 9 (NASB)

*Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and make them know that I have loved
you.*

and make them know that I have loved you

The Jewish people felt they were not only God's chosen people but they are also the only ones that God loves. Notice how God will force them to acknowledge that they were wrong and the Christians are right that God does love all those who are following Christ, regardless of their heritage.

Since you have kept my command to
endure patiently

This is again reference to the fact that this Church has remained faithful to the teachings or commands of Christ and has not allowed the world to influence them. Their adherence to the Truth has caused them to suffer persecution which they have patiently endured.

Revelation 3: 10 (NASB)

Because you have kept My word of perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of the testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who live on the earth.

I also will keep you from the hour of the testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world

What is this saying to you?

I also will keep you from the hour of the testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world

This is extremely exciting and encouraging as this promise is also to us. We can't miss this as it is very important that we understand what Jesus is referencing.

The Church will be kept from the tribulation period. It will be pulled from the world

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17 (NASB)

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15: 51-52 (NASB)

Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

Isaiah 26: 19-21 (NASB)

*Your dead will live; Their corpses
will rise.*

*You who lie in the dust, awake and
shout for joy,*

*For your dew is as the dew of the
dawn,*

*And the earth will give birth to the
departed spirits.*

Isaiah 26: 19-21 (NASB)

*Come, my people, enter your
rooms*

And close your doors behind you;

Hide for a little while

Until indignation runs its course.

Isaiah 26: 19-21 (NASB)

*For behold, the Lord is about to
come out from His place
To punish the inhabitants of the
earth for their wrongdoing;
And the earth will reveal her
bloodshed And will no longer cover
her slain.*

Christ is going to keep us from the tribulation period which we see described later in Revelation as well as in Daniel.

This is great news, if you are Christian you will be watching the tribulation from above!

Revelation 3: 11 (NASB)

I am coming quickly; hold firmly to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

hold firmly to what you have

What is this saying to you?

hold firmly to what you have

I think this is again saying to hold onto the truth, maintain solid Biblical doctrine and maintain your relationship with Christ until the end.

Revelation 3: 11 (NASB)

I am coming quickly; hold firmly to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

so that no one will take your crown.

What is Jesus saying to you here?



Turn to: 2 John 1: 8

2 John 1: 8 (NASB)

Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

If we do not continue to hold on
or follow the teachings of Christ,
we can allow those who are
teaching false gospel to prevent
us from receiving our full reward.

Revelation 3: 12 (NASB)

The one who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Revelation 3: 12 (NASB)

The one who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Revelation 3: 13 (NASB)

The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Jesus	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodiceans
<i>Commendation/ Encouragement/ Promise</i>	Works, labor, perseverance, patience. You cannot stand those that are evil. Found false apostles liars. Labored for my Name and not become weary. You hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans (which I also hate).	Works, tribulation, poverty. I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews but are a synagogue of Satan. You are physically poor but spiritually rich.	Works, You hold fast to my Name and did not deny My faith, even in the face of martyrdom. I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is.	Works, love, service, faith, perseverance. Your works now are more than the first.	You have a few names who have not defiled their garments. They will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.	I know your works. You have a little strength, have kept My Word, and not denied My Name. You will be vindicated and rule with Me. Since you've kept My command to persevere, I will keep you from the Grt. Trib.	
<i>Rebuke</i>	You've left your first love.	NONE	You have those who hold the doctrine of Balaam (idolatry and sexual immorality). Nicolaitans.	You allow Jezebel (false prophetess) to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and idolatry. She did not repent- no longer may.	Your faith is not complete before God.	NONE	
<i>Admonition</i>	Remember from where you've fallen; repent, and do the first works.	Do not fear what you will suffer. Some will be imprisoned to be tested and have tribulation. Be faithful to death and I will give you life.	Repent	Repent or I will judge you according to your works. To the faithful: hold fast what you have until I come.	Be watchful and strengthen what little remains. Remember what you have received and heard, hold fast and repent.	My return is imminent. Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.	
<i>Ultimatum</i>	Repent or your church will be removed from its place.	NONE	Repent or I will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.	Tribulation, unless you repent of your deeds	If you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief.	NONE	
<i>To those who overcome</i>	I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.	You shall not be hurt by the second death.	I will give some of the hidden manna to eat and a white stone with a new name written on it which no one knows but him who receives it.	I will give ruling power over the nations, as I also have received from My Father. And I will give him the Morning Star.	He will be clothed in white garments. I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but will confess his name before My Father and His angels.	You will be a pillar in the temple of My God. You will go out no more. I will write on you the name of God, the City of God and My New Name.	