

Revelation 3 Jesus Reveals Himself to the Churches, Part 3

Intro: It has been well said that if we have Learned anything from History – We have learned that We haven't learned from History

- A) That is true For if we had **truly learned from History** – I believe that there would have only been one war
- B) Because we would have associated w/ **war Heartache / Headache / heart Break** – we would agree *Let's never do that again !!!!*
- C) **Had we learned from History** – I believe that there would have only had to have been one **ALCOHOLIC**
- 1) Again : We would have seen the Heartache / the suffering/ the Misery attached which would have **transformed our Understanding**
- D) THERE ONLY NEEDS TO BE ONE

Had we learned from History – I believe there would have only had to be one DIVORCE

Once again seeing the Heartache / the Heartbreak / the frustration that a couple & their Children go thru

Would cause us to conclude *I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN TO ME – I want to learn from their mistakes & not repeat them*

But the fact of the matter is that we haven't learned from History

- 1) But one thing we have **SEEN** from History is **that History has a way of REPEATING ITSELF**

THE city of SARDIS was guilty of not learning from History

- A) Seven hundred years before this letter was written, Sardis had been one of the greatest cities in the world.
- B) It was the capital of Lydia. - It was a center for **TRADE** / It was a Military Center.
- 1) It was characterized by a **loose/luxurious lifestyle.**
- C) And It was located on an almost **inaccessible plateau.** -
- 1) Its Acropolis, w/its nearly perpendicular rock walls, was about **1500'** above the main roads which formed an **impregnable fortress / on all but the south side.**

They were so confident that their city could never be over taken that they didn't put – watchmen on the walls

- 1) But in 549 B.C. Sardis was conquered by Cyrus & the Persian invaders
Because they were caught off Guard !!!!! They weren't watching

The same Mistake was made again 300 yrs later when the city was conquered again because they still had no Guards posted on the Walls

- 1) They still were not watching !!!!!/ They hadn't learned from HISTORY

That seemed to be the Church of Sardis' Problem as well – because Jesus says to them in v. 2

2 "Be watchful, & strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die,

- A) Jesus calls this church to **WATCH / TO WAKE UP** - because it was Dead !!!!!
- B) **Sardis Has been called:** “*The Fruitless Church/ The church of spiritual Apathy; the Dead church;*
1) *The Feeble church; “The church with a Reputation, but needing Resuscitation!”*

Jesus identifies the Church's Spiritual Condition in v. 1
"I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

Lets move on to Sardis:

Rev 3:1-2

And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,
'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

A)Church of Sardis – Problem: Dead or dying.

B)Part of their problem started – like Laodicea – they were self confident –

- 1)They fell asleep – stopped watching.

C)Sardis Has been called: “*The Fruitless Church/ The church of spiritual Apathy; the Dead church;*

- 1) *The Feeble church; “The church with a Reputation, but needing Resuscitation!”*

His Revelation: 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars:

A)The seven Spirits of God does not mean that there are seven different spirits of God – 7 is the Number of Completion

B)This phrase is a reference to the complete sevenfold ministry of the Holy Spirit that would rest upon Jesus the Messiah given to us in Isaiah Ch.11:1

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

Jesus the Messiah would come in the Fullness of the Spirit. – This is what we cut ourselves off from when we seek to live self confident lives.

A) Depending upon our strength our resources rather than Jesus and the power of His spirit

Spirit of the Lord - speaks of fullness – no partial – speaks all the resources of God.

Wisdom: = knowledge applied or the proper application of knowledge

Jesus said: John 14: Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth.

Understanding : the faculty of insight to discern - to look at something and see it clearly. Holy Spirit brings discernment

Spirit of Counsel - Ability to deliberate, to judge; to have right words to say at right time

Spirit of might = power and strength

Of knowledge: He is the one who knows all things and He reveals it to us - opens word! Gives application; instruction

Finally - *spirit of the fear of the Lord* –

A) Reverential awe – Longing to please God

B) Conviction of the Holy Spirit that points out sin – Alarm in our hearts

C) The problem with a person who is becoming dead is they ignore that conviction –

1) their heart becomes callous –

C)) When we ignore the conviction of the HS in our lives or when we try to live the Christian life in our own strength –

1) we cut ourselves off from God's Spirit/ Power

Your life will grow mechanical and machine like instead of being led and directed by the Lord !

A) What is needed is to get back to that place of dependency upon Jesus –

B) There is a desperation: Lord fill me today with Your spirit!

C) Lord I can't do this without You! – Any of it – not effectively – not consistently

Final Church: Right perception of themselves – Philadelphia

Philadelphia: Need – Strength

A) Philadelphia great name – brotherly love

B) This church was in a city that had endured a lot of tragedy { Jason back ground on Wed. }

1) The Church was touched by the tragedy– Rains on Just and unjust.

2)Believers were not shielded when economy collapsed.

C)So in this city that had gone through so much – stood this vibrant group of believers in Jesus.

1)Jesus has nothing bad to say about this church – only good.

D)They were surrounded by the marks of tragedy and they were in a dark city –

1) Satan’s throne was prevalent – But they stood strong – remained faithful

HIS REVELATION:

Revelation: Rev 3:7 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

Jesus reveals himself as the one who is Holy and true

A)Holy speaks of the name of God – God often referred to Himself as the *HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL - Purity*

B)TRUE – speaks of that which is Authentic / Genuine

C) And as the one who holds the Key OF DAVID. – this speaks of Authority

D)The reference To the Key of David is from Isaiah 22:20-25 In that passage it is given to a man named Eliakim– who is a Servant of King Hezekiah

He was Kind of a Chief of Staff - he was given authority to open & shut doors that led into the Treasuries of the King.

A)So to this Church that is in need of strength –

C)Jesus says I am the one who has the Authority to open and shut doors.

1)**I have access to the treasuries and the resources of the King.**

D)Open doors for ministry and service – opportunities{ Paul prayed often – an open door

They were a Church w/ a Divine Opportunity – v.8
See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;

What is an OPEN DOOR – refer to?

B)In Col.4: 3 Apostle Paul asked that the People in Colosse would pray, *that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ,*

Pray that we’ll have an opportunity to talk about Jesus Christ.”

2 Cor. 2: 12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord,

A) It was a door that Jesus had opened. A great door was opened, to do what? To preach the Gospel.

B) This is the door that Jesus is speaking of here in Revelation 3:8

TRADE ROUTES / The door is one that Jesus opens to us.

1) It is an opportunity to preach the Gospel.

In 1Cor.16: 9 We read where Paul Said For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

A) A door of opportunity was opened to Paul. But there Were adversaries?

An open door but there was also opposition

Good thing to Note : Because Sometimes we think that an open door is something that we walk through and everything becomes a breeze;

the whole world falls down at our feet and says, *“Wow, you’re here with the Gospel, thank you.” How can I be Saved*

But an open door – even though it is an effective open door – will almost always have opposition .

Satan doesn’t want to see people come to Christ – so there will almost always be opposition

So don’t get discouraged by the Opposition – but excited about the Open Door

So the Lord opens doors - & He also shuts doors – Acts 16:7-9 the apostle Paul wanted to go into Asia.

A) But said that they were *forbidden of the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.*

B)Need to watch that we are not trying to Knock open doors that God has

shut (Early in my Ministry – did this a lot !!!) – Key is No Striving -

That is always a good Indication to me that God is in Something is that there will be an Absence of Striving - & Strife

But that Doesn’t mean that there won’t be Hard work involved – In fact Paul spoke of laboring for to the Point of Exhaustion

But there is a Difference between hard work & Striving to make something Happen .

The thing the Lord would have us note today is : There are a lot of open doors out there and we need to be looking for them.

A) We need to be praying, *“Jesus, open to us these doors of opportunity.”*

Open our eyes to see the open doors you have put before us

B) Jesus said that His desire for us as a Church & as Individuals was that we would Bear Fruit – *By this the Father is Glorified – Bear Much Fruit*

C) The way to do that is to boldly walk thru the open doors that God places in our Path on a Daily Basis
1) What are some of those open doors?

D) Every friendship that you have is an *OPEN DOOR* for the Gospel. Or to Minister God's Love

E) Every job you go to is an *OPEN DOOR*. – Your Mission Field
In Fact Each of you are going to be in a lot of places tomorrow that I could never go to, never get to.

F) You'll be talking to people that I might never see, never be able to talk about Jesus to. **BUT YOU'LL BE THERE.**

What is Sad is that sometimes we never see the doors that are opened to us Or we aren't looking for open doors to begin w/

1Cor.16: 9 We read where Paul Said *For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*

Open doors also means opposition:

A) This is what Jesus is saying to this church and to us today –

B) Although you might see yourself as having little strength

C) I have authority to open doors – and I have resources to give you – if you are willing to walk through those open doors.

D) I want to show myself strong on your behalf to make an impact in this world for my Kingdom
1) My glory

Breakdown – Proper view of self – creates a desperation

That turns into a Longing for Dependency upon the HS

That Opens doors for Divine Resources

E) I will empower you by my spirit to walk through that door – be used for my Kingdom