

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

July 26, 2020

Resources used:

- A Study Of The Book Of Revelation by Bob Dodson
- More Than Conquerors by William Hendriksen
- Overcoming With The Lamb, Florida College Annual Lectures, February 7-10, 1994
- Revelation: An Introduction and Commentary by Homer Hailey
- Revelation (Truth Commentaries) by Robert Harkrider
- Revelation (A Study Workbook) by Robert Harkrider
- Revelation by Donnie Rader
- Studies In The Book Of Revelation by Ferrell Jenkins
- The Old Testament In The Book Of Revelation by Ferrell Jenkins
- The Revelation Of Saint John The Divine by G.B. Caird
- The Book of Revelation by Foy E. Wallace
- The Avenging of the Apostles and Prophets by Arthur M. Ogden
- Worthy Is The Lamb by Ray Summers
- Written exchange on "The Domitian Persecution" between Arthur M. Ogden and Ferrell Jenkins presented in Searching The Scriptures, June 12, 1989, pages 7;12

Revelation 3:1-6

"Letter to the Church at Sardis"

The Church That Was Dead

- I. Identification of the Author (verse 1)
- II. Commendation (verses 2, 4)
- III. Condemnation (verses 1, 3)
- IV. Plea to Repent (verse 3)
- V. Promise if they Overcome (verses 5-6)

Revelation 3:1-6

I. Good Qualities That Did Not Prevent Death

A. Good Reputation (verse 1)

B. An Active Program (verse 1)

C. A Peaceful Atmosphere

D. Some Good Members (verse 4)

1. *Good members will not answer for sins of others*
2. *Good members will not remove the sins of others*
3. *Good members at Corinth didn't mean there were not serious problems (1 Corinthians 5, 6)*

Revelation 3:1-6

II. Preventing Death / Reviving Life

A. Be Watchful (verses 2-3)

B. Strengthen Things That Remain (verse 2)

1. *Use and exercise the strength you have!*
2. *May refer to persons – Warn and strengthen them lest they become like the rest*
3. *More likely refers to deeds – love, faith, service you have – strengthen these lest they die too*
4. *Had started – had not continued*

Revelation 3:1-6

II. Preventing Death / Reviving Life

Revelation 3:2, "*for I have found no works of thine perfected before my God.*"

- The Galatians had started, but not finished. Galatians 5:7
- The Corinthians had started a collection, but had not finished. 2 Corinthians 9:2-5
- Some do not finish, because they have not counted the cost. Luke 14:28
- Some do not finish, because they have no clear goal. Philippians 3:14; Hebrews 12:1-2

(Ferrell Jenkins, Studies In The Book Of Revelation, Page 62)

Revelation 3:1-6

II. Preventing Death / Reviving Life**A. Be Watchful (verses 2-3)****B. Strengthen Things That Remain (verse 2)****C. Remember and Repent (verse 3)**

1. *Remember how they had embraced the gospel*
 - a. Perhaps with zeal and excitement – now gone
 - b. Perhaps with joy – been lost
2. *Remember what they heard – the truth!* cf. 2:5; Galatians 1:8-9
 - a. Now have forgotten (cf. Hebrews 5:12)
 - b. Not practicing now.
 - c. *Repent – change – go back!*

Revelation 3:3, “*If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*”

Revelation 3:1-6

II. Preventing Death / Reviving Life*Five admonitions:*

- *Be watchful* (1 Peter 5:8);
- *Strengthen the things which remain* (1 Corinthians 15:58);
- *Remember* (Luke 15:17-21);
- “*Keep it*” ... *Hold fast* (2 Timothy 1:13);
- *Repent* (Acts 8:22)

Revelation 3:1-6

II. Preventing Death / Reviving Life

Revelation 3:4, “*But thou hast a FEW names in Sardis that did not defile their garments: and they shall walk with me in white; for they are worthy.*”

Few ... Genesis 6; Numbers 14; Matthew 7:13-14

1. Judgment will be upon individuals, not congregations. Romans 14:12
2. Some had not soiled their garments by compromising with evil.
3. To “*walk*” (Amos 3:3) implies fellowship.
4. “*In white*” (Revelation 3:4-5; 4:4; 7:9, 13) may refer to the Roman custom of military triumph where the nobles marched through the streets of Rome in white togas.

Revelation 3:1-6

“In the lowest state of religion in a church there may be a few, perhaps quite obscure and of humble rank, who are mourning over the desolations of Zion, and who are sighing for better times.”

(Albert Barnes, *Revelation*, Page 89)

Revelation 3:1-6

III. Promise of Reward

Revelation 3:5-6, “*He that overcometh shall thus be arrayed in white garments; and I will in no wise blot his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*”

- A “book” containing the names of all those who belong to God is referred to in both Old and New Testaments (Exodus 32:32-33; Psalms 69:28; Daniel 12:1; Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3; Hebrews 12:22-23)
 - Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27.
- The name of one who overcomes:
 - Will be confessed before the Father. (Matthew 10:32-33)
 - Will be clothed in the pure robes of eternal life. (7:13-14)

Revelation 3:1-6

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He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches.”

Hearing versus Dull of hearing.

Proverbs 2:2, “*So as to incline thine ear unto wisdom, And apply thy heart to understanding*”

Revelation 3:1-6

A Dead Church

Revelation 3:1-6

I. Good Qualities That Did Not Prevent Death

II. Preventing Death / Reviving Life

Isaiah 55:6-7, *“Seek ye Jehovah while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto Jehovah, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”*

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