

The Lord Evaluates His Church Revelation 3

V. The Comatose Church – 3:1-6

1. Sardis was a proud city noted for Acropolis
800-1500 ft. high cliffs, virtually impregnable
Easily defended, spirit of complacency
2. Lord comes with seven-fold Spirit of God – 3:1
Spirit of perfect wisdom, discernment to evaluate
He still has the messengers in His hand
3. The Lord's Assessment – 3:1
You have a name of being alive but are dead
Projected an image, rested on past reputation
In reality they were dead, no real dynamic
Whatever they had in the past is now gone
4. The Lord's Admonition – 3:2-4
Has not given up on this church, challenges them
Be Watchful – Wake up, shake off your apathy
Strengthen what remains – There is still hope
But even what remains is in danger of dying
Their works were not perfect before God
Remember, Hold fast & Repent
Renew your commitment in a spirit of revival
Warning – If you don't repent judgment will come
Word to Remnant – Still a few who were true
Lord takes note of them and will reward them
5. The Lord's Appeal – 3:5-6
To those who respond there is a rich reward
Clothed in white raiment
Name in the Book of Life
Confess his name before my Father & Angels

VI. The Committed Church – 3:7-13

1. Philadelphia was founded by King Attalus II
So named because of his love for his brother
Church faced opposition from Jewish leaders
2. Lord reminds them He is holy and true – 7
He has the key of David - Key to the Kingdom
When He opens a door no one can shut it
When He shuts a door no one can open it
Take comfort in the fact that He is in control
3. The Lord's Assessment – 3:8
You have little strength, perhaps small group
But He has given them an open door
Faithful to the Lord and to His Word – 8
Lord looks for faithfulness in His people
4. The Lord's Admonition – 3:9-10
No censure, only encouragement & promise
Vindication before their enemies – 9
Persecutors will one day bow before your feet
Deliverance from Trial – 3:10
As God spared Israel from plagues in Egypt
He will spare His people from His wrath
5. The Lord's Appeal – 3:11-13
Prepare for His Return – 3:11

He will come with suddenness
Crowns promised to those who are faithful
Crowns can be won or lost in how we serve
The faithful will have a place in His Kingdom - 12
Set as a pillar in the Temple of God
He shall go out no more
I will write upon him the name of my God
And the name of the city of my God – New
Jerusalem
The city that comes down from heaven
I will write on him My New Name
This message is for all who will hear - 13

VII. The Complacent Church – 3:14-22

1. Laodicea was a wealthy city near Colosse
With their wealth they were a self-sufficient city
2. Lord addresses them as the final word, Amen
He is faithful and speaks truth, He is the Creator
3. The Lord's Assessment – 3:15-17
They were lukewarm – 15-16
Neither hot or cold, complacent, self-satisfied
They were nauseating to the Lord
He would spit them out
They were self-sufficient – 17
No sense of need, felt good about condition
Lord saw them as wretched
Miserable, poor, blind, naked
4. The Lord's Admonition – 3:18-19
He does not give up but offers what they need-18
Pure gold making you truly be rich
White raiment - clothed in His righteousness
His healing ointment to make you able to see
His rebuke, chastening is a sign of His love – 19
In love he calls them to diligence in repentance
5. The Lord's Appeal – 3:20-22
He reaches out with an invitation to individuals
Those who respond will enjoy fellowship with Him
All who respond will sit with Him on His Throne
The invitation is open to all who will listen