



REVELATION

Jesus Loves His Church (Part 3) | January 28, 2024

Read Revelation Chapter 3:1-13

Today we will be looking at the Churches at:

- **Sardis**
- **Philadelphia**

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-42: The Parable of the Wheat and Tares - provides context for Revelation 3. Some in the church are not really true followers of Jesus. They are the “tares” that grow up amongst the true believers.

Matthew 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.*”

THE CHURCH AT SARDIS (Revelation 3:1-6)

- **Sardis was a city on a plateau that was thought to be impregnable**
- **They worshiped Dionysius and paganism was rampant**

The Good about Sardis:

1. Jesus knows their works
2. They had a “reputation” for “being alive”

The Bad about Sardis:

- You are dead (lots of tares)

Therefore (Jesus's instructions to Sardis):

1. Wake up!
2. Strengthen what remains
3. Remember what you've received from me
4. Repent

Warning about Judgment: Like a thief. Suddenly. Harmful to you.

Good News: There's still some wheat in Sardis (there's always a remnant)

Benefits for those who conquer/overcome:

1. White garments means eternal victory (you're on the winning team forever)
2. Your name is never blotted out of the book of life:
John 10:27-29: *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*
3. Jesus will confess (brag about) you before the Father and the angels:
Matthew 10:32: *So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,*

Revelation 3:6: Listen up! He is saying that this is very important. **Are you a wheat or a tare?**

THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA (Revelation 3:7-13)

Several earthquakes: Honored Caesar for rebuilding

Gives us the following description of Jesus:

1. He is the holy one
2. He is the true one
3. He holds the keys of David: to the temple treasury (means blessings for us!)
4. He opens and shuts all doors (means eternal life)

Colossians 4:3-4: *At the same time, pray also for us, that **God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ**, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*

The Good about Philadelphia:

1. Jesus knows of their works
2. He knows how they've used the open doors to merchants that He gave them
3. They are little in numbers but great in power
4. They kept Jesus's Word and didn't deny his name

The Bad about Philadelphia:

NOTHING! (like Smyrna)

Benefits for overcoming/conquering/being faithful to the end

1. The Jews who persecuted them will one day bow down to them
2. You will be kept from the hour of trial (the Great Tribulation?)
3. You'll be a pillar: unshakeable
4. God's name will be on you: ownership
5. Your name in the new Jerusalem: citizenship
6. Your own new name: eternal friendship with Jesus (BFF)

Verse 13: Listen up! This is important! **Will you have these eternal blessings?**