

Revelation

God's Message to the Seven Churches

Key Verse for this Section

*Heb 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)
24 And let us **consider** one another to **provoke** unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but **exhorting** one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

...he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars...

A reference to the perfection of Christ and that He holds the pastors of the churches in His (right) hand

He requires PERFECTION from His followers
(1Pe 1:15-16)

The Church at Sardis

The Dead Church

The Lord's Commendation?/Rebuke

The only commendation came as a REBUKE

- They had a reputation for being alive
- They were in fact DEAD

The Church at Sardis

The Dead Church

The Lord's Commendation?/Rebuke

→ Our culture can no longer endure sound doctrine

1Ti 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables

The Church at Sardis

The Dead Church

The Lord's Commendation?/Rebuke

- Our culture demands that the church conform to culture standards
- We bring **WORLDLY** things into the church and home without even realising it

The Church at Sardis

The Dead Church

The Lord's Commendation?/Rebuke

→ There was a faithful REMNANT in the church

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments

The church needs GODLY, committed men and women who will LEAD others

The Church at Sardis

The Dead Church

The Lord's Exhortation

1. Be WATCHFUL (Mat 24:42-44)
2. Strengthen (1Co 3:13-15)
3. Remember
The foundation of the church, which was the GOSPEL
4. Hold Fast
REPAIR the foundation
5. Repent
Cast out those things that destroy the foundation

The Church at Sardis

The Dead Church

The Lord's Promise

1. To be clothed in WHITE raiment (Jud 24)

To be SPOTLESS

2. To remain written in the Book of Life

This is NOT a warning that one can be erased from the Book of Life, but an AFFIRMATION that his name will not be REMOVED.

3. To have one's NAME confessed before the Father.

*...he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and
shutteth, and no man openeth...*

Speaks of the final AUTHORITY of Christ

*...behold, I have set before thee an open door,
and no man can shut it...*

Christ will KEEP His church

The Church at Philadelphia

The Faithful Church

The Lord's Commendation

1 "You have kept my word"

2 "You have not denied my name"

→ The Word of God is synonymous with His NAME

→ To deny part of the Word of God is to deny ALL of His name

→ To hold to His name is to hold to ALL of His Word

3 Their strength was in the WORD OF GOD

for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word

The Church at Philadelphia

The Faithful Church

The Lord's Rebuke

NONE!

2Ti 4:7-8 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

The Church at Philadelphia

The Faithful Church

The Lord's Promise

- They will be kept FROM the hour of temptation
 - A reference to the tribulation to come
 - This church represents all churches that are FAITHFUL
 - NONE of the churches will enter the tribulation to come
 - Prior to the tribulation there will be a great catching away

1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

The Church at Philadelphia

The Faithful Church

The Lord's Promise

- “Behold, I come quickly”
Not necessarily soon but **SUDDENLY**

The Church at Philadelphia

The Faithful Church

The Lord's Promise

- A permanent place in the New Jerusalem

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out

The Church at Philadelphia

The Faithful Church

The Lord's Promise

- Permanent CITIZENSHIP

and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem