

## Have No Fear, The End is Near

A Practical Discussion on the  
Book of Revelation

9.30.09

## Thyatira

Revelation 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. <sup>19</sup> "I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. <sup>20</sup> But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. <sup>22</sup> Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, <sup>23</sup> and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve. <sup>24</sup> But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. <sup>25</sup> Only hold fast what you have until I come. <sup>26</sup> The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, <sup>27</sup> and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. <sup>28</sup> And I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

## Thyatira

- Opposite of Ephesus – Love, but not purity
- Burnished bronze
  - A famous bronze makers guild in the city
- “Jezebel”
  - A woman leader in the church teaching that idolatry and immorality are OK for people with “deep” knowledge
- Promise of authority to those who hold out
- “Morning Star” – later refers to Jesus
  - This was a great honor in Greco-Roman times

## Sardis

Revelation 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup> Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup> Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. <sup>4</sup> Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup> The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. <sup>6</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

## Sardis

- The dead church
- Some hope of life remains
- “will come like a thief”
  - Sardis stood behind a fortress, yet was captured twice by surprise attack
- “soiled garments” meant no entry
- “book of life”
  - The roster of those safe in Jesus, destined to receive new life

## Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. <sup>8</sup> "I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup> Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup> Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup> I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. <sup>12</sup> The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. <sup>13</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

## Philadelphia

- Like Sardis, only praise
- “Key of David” = authority
  - Isaiah 22:22 “what he opens no one can shut”
- “open door” = opportunity
  - Likely means they have access to Him
- Another synagogue threatening the church
- Trials coming for the church
- “pillar in the temple” = stability
  - Stability was an issue in the city because of earthquakes... many built houses outside of town

## Laodicea

Revelation 3:14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. <sup>15</sup> "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. <sup>19</sup> Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup> The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

## Laodicea

- No praise here, only rebukes
- “lukewarm”
  - Laodicea’s water supply was brought in from a distant source by pipes and arrived lukewarm. Neighboring Hierapolis had hot springs and Colossae got its water from cold mountain springs. The irony is the church was materially rich, yet they had to drink bad water.
- “rich” – banking center, textile industry, medical school
- Self-sufficiency and pride crippled them
- “stand at the door and knock”
  - They have shut out the author of their faith
- Jesus loves them and calls them to repent
  - Note that Jesus desires fellowship with them

## Other notes

- The two churches most harshly criticized, Sardis and Laodicea, are the only two cities completely uninhabited in modern times!
- The letters provide case studies for all churches at that time as well as churches throughout history and even today.
- Glimpses of several later visions are introduced in the letters – recurring themes