



FINAL CONQUEST

A VERSE-BY-VERSE STUDY OF REVELATION

THE CHURCH THAT COULDN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT AND THE CHURCH THAT COULDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG

REVELATION 3:1-13

Introduction: Not long ago, researchers asked pastors how they believed Christ would rate their churches. Less than half of one percent said Christ would rate their churches as highly effective. Forty-three percent believed He would find them respectable. However, fifty-three percent said Christ would rate their churches as having little positive impact on society. Today, we are going to look at two churches that could not have been more different: a church that couldn't do anything right and a church that couldn't do anything wrong.

I. **Sardis: The Church That Couldn't Do Anything Right**

Revelation 3:1 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.’”

A. **The City of Sardis**

B. **The Description of Christ** (Revelation 3:1; Isaiah 11:2)

7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1. **Permanent Indwelling.** “The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him.”
2. **Wisdom.** The ability to look at life from God's perspective—“The Spirit of wisdom.”
3. **Understanding.** The ability to apply that perspective to life—“The Spirit of understanding.”
4. **Counsel.** The ability to guide others through life—“The Spirit of counsel.”
5. **Strength.** The ability to help others carry out that guidance—“The Spirit of strength.”
6. **Knowledge.** The ability to know the things of God—“The Spirit of knowledge.”
7. **Obedience.** Reverential obedience to God—“The Spirit of the fear of the LORD.”



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Revelation 3:1a “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars.”

Isaiah 11:2 “And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.”

C. The Commendation of the Church at Sardis

D. The Condemnation of Sardis (Revelation 3:1)

Revelation 3:1b “I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.”

E. The Correction (Revelation 3:2-3)

Revelation 3:2-3 ² “Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. ³ Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.”

1. “Wake Up” (Revelation 3:2)

Five Truths About “Watchfulness”

- a. **Watchfulness should be the Christian’s constant attitude.**
(Romans 13:11; 1 Corinthians 16:13)
- b. **Watchfulness guards us against the attacks of the devil.**
(1 Peter 5:8)
- c. **Watchfulness protects us against temptations.**
(Matthew 24:42)
- d. **Watchfulness prepares us for the return of the Lord.**
(Matthew 24:42; Mark 13:37; 1 Thessalonians 5:6)
- e. **Watchfulness makes us aware of false teaching.**
(Acts 20:29-31)



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2. **“Strengthen”** (Revelation 3:2)
 3. **“Remember”** (Revelation 3:3)
 4. **“Repent”** (Revelation 3:3)
- F. **The Promise** (Revelation 3:4-6)

Revelation 3:4-6 ⁴ “But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy. ⁵ He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

1. **White garments**
 2. **Names not erased from the Book of Life**
- II. **Philadelphia: The Church That Couldn't Do Anything Wrong**
- A. **The City of Philadelphia**
 - B. **The Description of Christ** (Revelation 3:7)

Revelation 3:7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:”

1. **The Holy One**
2. **The True One**
3. **The Authoritative One**



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Isaiah 22:21-22 ²¹ “And I will clothe [Eliakim] him with your tunic, and tie your sash securely about him. I will entrust him with your authority, and he will become a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. ²² Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder, when he opens no one will shut, when he shuts no one will open.”

C. The Commendation of the Church at Philadelphia (Revelation 3:8)

Revelation 3:8 “I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”

D. The Promises to Philadelphia (Revelation 3:9-13)

1. Christians will be acknowledged as the true followers of Messiah. (Revelation 3:9)

Revelation 3:9 “Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews, and are not, but lie – behold, I will make them to come and bow down at your feet, and to know that I have loved you.”

2. Christians will escape the coming Tribulation. (Revelation 3:10)

Revelation 3:10 “Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 ¹⁶ “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up [where we get our word “rapture”] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

3. Christians will soon see the Lord. (Revelation 3:11)

Revelation 3:11 “I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, in order that no one take your crown.”



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4. Christians will be established in God's Temple.
(Revelation 3:12-13)

Revelation 3:12-13 ¹² “He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. ¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

5. Christians will forever be identified with Christ.
(Revelation 3:12)

Revelation 3:12 “He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.”

Conclusion