

Teacher Class Plan

Revelation: Lesson #97 – Letters to the Seven Churches - 2 For Wednesday , May 13th

Read Revelation 2:18 – 3:6 (a simplified explanation of the text will be supplied at the end of these notes.)

Memory Verse: Rev. 2:29; 3:6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Tonight we are studying two more of the seven churches of Asia that Jesus wrote to in the book of Revelation – the church at Thyatira and the church at Sardis.

Jesus' Letter to the Church at Thyatira

- Jesus introduces Himself as “the Son of God whose eyes are like a flame of fire and whose feet are like refined brass.” His eyes can look into our hearts and lives and see what we do. His feet are powerful and as He walks He can crush all who do wrong.
- Good Things About This Church: Jesus was pleased that the church at Thyatira had continued to work for Him. Their love, faith and service were all still strong. In fact, the Lord says the works they had done recently were even greater than their earlier works. God’s people, both in their day to day lives and in their labor together as the church, should not only work, but always be trying to do even more.
- Bad Things About This Church: There was a woman in the church at Thyatira who claimed to be a prophetess. That would mean she claimed that God spoke through her. But God didn’t really speak through her. This woman said that it was alright for Christians to eat food sacrificed to idols and do immoral things. Jesus calls her Jezebel. That probably wasn’t her real name, but is there to remind them of a woman in the Old Testament named Jezebel. That Old Testament Jezebel was the wife the King of Israel. She influenced her husband and her whole nation to worship an idols. The Lord was against the church at Thyatira because they allowed this woman to continue her influence in the church. Jesus said He had given her time to repent, but she had not done so. Now He would throw her into all kind of troubles and would put an end to all “her children” who followed her. Some of these had been influence by the deep things of Satan.
- The Thyatira church needed to realize that Jesus could see all that was going on, even in the hearts of the members. All the immoral needed to repent. The rest needed to make sure that they did not get involved in these sinful things.
- **The Lord’s Reward:** The Lord promised that all who stayed faithful and won their victory over sin, Satan and the world would be rewarded by being allowed to rule with Him. This may be talking about when they died or it may be talking about when we have our final reward at the end of time in Jesus’ heavenly kingdom. Jesus also promised to give them the bright and morning star. In Revelation 22:16 Jesus said that He was the bright and morning star.

Jesus' Letter to the Church at Sardis

- Jesus introduces Himself as “He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars.” The seven Spirits probably show how the Lord can go anywhere and search out to see what people are doing. The seven stars probably are meant to demonstrate the Lord’s rule and authority especially over His kingdom.
- Good Things About This Church: At one time they had evidently been a good church that had a good name for doing right. They had been alive. That means they were active and fervent for the Lord. A few at Sardis had try to keep their lives spiritually clean.
- Bad Things About This Church: Everyone thought of this church as having a great name, but it was a lie. Jesus said they weren’t alive, but were dead. And they very little that they still did was about to die. Many in this church were living impure lives – their spiritual clothing was dirty.
- They needed to look at those things that were about to die and start getting them going again. The Lord wants the people of His church to be busy doing good things. And the Lord wants His church active in the works He has given it to do. It was time to wake up and give close attention to what the Lord wanted them to do. One day the Lord is coming back, but no one knows when. Will we be doing what He wants us to do when He comes?
- **The Lord’s Reward:** Those at the church at Sardis who had lived righteously and won their victory would one day join the Lord in heaven and be clothed with even more glorious white clothing. These who had overcome were worthy and would not have their names taken out of the Book of Life. The Book of Life is God’s record of our faithfulness to Him. If we keep on serving God faithfully, our name will stay in His Book of Life and we will be part of His heavenly city. Jesus will confess us before His Father and we will have Heaven as our home. In the Judgment Day, if our name is not found in the Book of Life, we will face the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:15)
- At the end of each of the letters to the seven churches, Jesus ends His Words to them by saying, Rev. 2:29; 3:6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." This is our **memory verse** for our class tonight. *Review this verse with the class and have each try to say it.*

Bible Quiz: Review the quiz questions with the class and help them to each be able to answer the questions properly. If you have time it would be good to run over the questions to Sunday’s class quiz.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Letter to the Church at Thyatira

2:18 Write this to the angel of the Thyatira church: The Son of God whose eyes are like a flame of fire and whose feet are like refined brass says this:

19 I know your works and love and service and faith and steadfastness, and that your most recent works are even greater than your first ones.

20 But I have a few things against you because you are allowing that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and lead astray My servants to be sexually immoral and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

21 And I have given her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and yet she has not repented.

22-23 Take notice! If they don't repent of their evil ways, I will throw her and all who commit adultery with her on a bed of great troubles and afflictions and I will wipe out her children with death. Then all the churches will know that I am the One who can search the inner part, the heart. Then I will give every one of you according to your works.

24 But to you and the other Christians there in Thyatira, I have this to say: All those who don't hold to this kind of teaching and have not known "the deep things of Satan" (as they call it), I will put no other burdens on you.

25 But the things you do have, you better hold on to until I come.

26-27 And those who win the victory and keep My works until the end, to them I will give authority over the nations, and they will rule them with an iron rod. Like clay pots they will be broken to pieces just like the authority My Father gave to Me.

28 And I will give Him the morning star.

29 If you have an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Letter to the Church at Sardis

3:1 Write this to the angel of the Sardis church: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars says this: I know your works, that you have a name that lives, and yet you are dead.

2 Give close attention to the things that do still remain which are dying, because I have not found you to have very many works before God.

3 So remember in what way you received and heard God's Word and hold fast to it and repent. If you do not pay close attention to this, I will come on you like a thief and you won't know what time I'll be coming upon you.

4 You still have a few even there at Sardis who have not stained their spiritual clothing and these will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

5 Those who win the victory are the same ones who will be clothed in white garments. I will not blot their names from the Book of Life, but will confess their name before My Father and before the angels.

6 If you have an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the churches.