

Revelation— Thy Faith not Perfect!

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This study: **Revelation 3:1-13 Sardis and Philadelphia**

[**Ephesians 2:1** *You were dead in your sins*; **1 John 2:28** *abide in Him—be not ashamed at His coming*; **Hebrews 2:1** *we ought to give the more earnest heed*; **2 Timothy 3:16** *“instruction in righteousness*; **Matthew 5:16** *Let your light shine*; **2 Corinthians 2:12** *a door was opened to me*; **2 Peter 2:9** *Lord knows how to deliver the godly; and reserve the unjust for judgment*]

AV **Revelation 3:1** *“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.*

2 *Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.”*

Jesus is One with the Spirit and seven is the perfect number in Scripture.

Jesus is God in Person so He sees and knows all things, all events, all intentions, and all our attitudes from the beginning to the end—there is no concealing *anything* from Him.

Many wear the label of Christian but often only in name and are not alive spiritually since they are not trusting God in faith for real life issues.

We need to be nourished by the Word of God every day and *strengthening* our stand of faith in Him.

It is all too easy to let things go and to not consider whether we are trusting God in faith or not.

NIV **Ephesians 2:1** *“You were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.”*

The church at Sardis appeared to be spiritually alive on the *outside*, but they were spiritually *lacking* on the *inside*. AV **Revelation 3:2** *“I have not found thy works perfect before God.”*

Their faith was not in line with Bible teaching—faith that is centered on Jesus and on His perfect blood sacrifice at Calvary.

The apostle was doing, as our church service messages must be doing AV **Ephesians 4:15** *“Speaking the truth in love,”* as that can enable the members to become more and more like Jesus *“Who is the head of his body, the church”* NLT **Ephesians 4:15**.

We must always *accept* God’s Truth in faith, and then *act* on our belief in Jesus.

Each day we need a new infilling of the Spirit to strengthen our spiritual walk—enabling us to *evaluate* our priorities; *adjust* our attitudes; and *correct* our mistakes before God in prayer.

AV **Revelation 3:3** *“Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”*

A thief gives no advance notice—but shows up suddenly and when we would least expect it.

If we have *repented* and are *sincere* in our faith in Jesus, we will be *glad* to greet Him at

His return. We would not dread His arrival but be waiting for Him.

The apostle mentions this—NKJV **1 John 2:28** *“And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”*

If we have some *issues* to correct or some *attitudes* to change—but we have been slothful in correcting them—we definitely need AV **Hebrews 2:1** *“To give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”*

We must be very serious about our faith because Satan will do everything possible to distract us from that position of trust on God.

The devil wants us to *tolerate* some sin, to *keep* wrong attitudes, to *desire* unscriptural reading material, videos, or anything that would make us *be ashamed* at the Lord’s return.

AV **Revelation 3:4** *“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.*

5 *He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”*

The true Christian life is one of perfectly centered faith on the Atonement Blood of Jesus. We must always be ready to *learn* spiritual lessons because God is always willing to *teach* them by situations we encounter.

AV **Revelation 3:6** *“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”*

No matter what else we achieve, accumulate, or do during our time on earth, the only matter of importance is whether our name is written in the Book of Life—as *that* determines our *destiny*!

The disciples were joyful over being able to cast out demons by divine power, but Jesus said
AV **Luke 10:20** “*Rejoice, [rather] because your names are written in heaven.*”

If our faith is perfectly centered on the Son of God, we would not fear judgment because Jesus not only refrains from *blotting out our name*, but He will *confess our name* before the Father.

NKJV **Luke 12:8** “*Whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.*” It is always a choice to glorify God or exalt the world.

AV **Revelation 3:7** “*And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;*

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”

An open door is an opportunity presented to witness for the Lord by our words, our attitudes, or our treatment of those around us.

The apostle was given that opportunity
2 **Corinthians 2:12**, and we can pray to be given that same opportunity.

Satan makes it easy to be preoccupied with things that have no spiritual value or benefit—and for that reason, we need to pray for scriptural desires and worthwhile interests that are spiritually beneficial and always pointing us to our Lord and Savior.

We are living at a critical time in history with the world getting ever darker spiritually and becoming ever more secular every day.

We need to read the signs of the times
AV **Romans 13:11** “*That now it is high time to awake out of sleep.*” The Lord’s return is approaching.

Philadelphia had become a gateway to the east and its location enabled believers in that city to influence many with the Gospel.

These are the world’s last days, and modern technology can help in sharing God’s Truth with the world—using a Web page or Drop Box.

AV **Revelation 3:9** “*Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.*”

The phrase *synagogue of Satan* is used with Smyrna and Philadelphia—two commended churches that may have had high crime areas.

Any major city today could wear that label—having areas of criminal activity, immoral districts, false religious groups like eternal security proponents, or areas where Satan is controlling people.

AV **Revelation 3:10** “*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”

The *hour of temptation* no doubt refers to the Tribulation. It will be seven years of serious trouble—far worse than this world has ever seen before.

As believers *persevere in trusting* God and keeping their faith in the Lord Jesus, He promises to *keep them from* the time when God will pour out His wrath on a very evil, sinful, and unrepentant world.

God spared Noah and his family from the flood, and He rescued Lot from Sodom and Gomorrah. God’s wrath did not rain down on those evil cities until Lot and his family were out of the way
Genesis 19.

NKJV **2 Peter 2:9** “*The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.*”

AV **Revelation 3:12** “*Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

We need AV **Hebrews 2:1** “*To give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*”

God is speaking to us, and He wants us to *read and heed* the warnings. He wants us to keep our faith centered on His Son who paid for our redemption, and He wants us to have Christlike attitudes toward everyone.

He wants us to keep our faith centered on the blood sacrifice Jesus made for everyone.

If our faith is *perfected* on that Atonement sacrifice, He made for our sins and wrong choices, we can be *sure* that our name is *written* in the **Lamb’s Book of Life!**



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