

STUDYING THE BOOK OF REVELATION
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 8 - To the Church in Sardis - Revelation 3:1-6

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

REV 3:1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. [2] Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. [3] Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

REV 3:4 Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. [5] He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. [6] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 8 - To the Church in Sardis - Revelation 3:1-6

93. Who instructed John to write down this vision? (3:1)
94. What church was the focus of this letter from Jesus? (3:1)
95. How did the speaker identify Himself? (3:1)
96. What did Christ know about the church at Sardis? (3:1)
97. What was the reputation of the church at Sardis? (3:1)
98. How did the church's true nature match its reputation? (3:1)
99. What did Christ think about the church at Sardis? (3:1-3)
100. What was wrong with the church at Sardis? (3:2)
101. What warnings did Christ issue to the church at Sardis? (3:2)

102. What did Christ urge as the first step to restoration? (3:3)
103. What consequences were promised to those who refused to wake up? (3:3)
104. How do we know that not all the Christians in Sardis were "asleep"? (3:4)
105. What blessings were promised to those who would "overcome"? (3:5)
106. What does it mean to "overcome" as a Christian?
107. In addition to the church at Sardis, who else was commanded to pay heed to this message? (3:6)

Lesson 9 - To the Church in Philadelphia - Revelation 3:7-13

REV 3:7 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. [8] I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. [9] I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars--I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. [10] Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

REV 3:11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. [12] Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. [13] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 9 - To the Church in Philadelphia - Revelation 3:7-13

108. Who spoke these words and instructed John to write them down? (3:7)
109. What church was the focus of this letter from Jesus? (3:7)
110. How did the speaker in this passage identify Himself? (3:7)
111. What did Christ say about His power? (3:7)

112. By what descriptions or names did Jesus call those who claimed to be Jews? (3:9)
113. What humbling act did Jesus say He would force the enemies of the church of Philadelphia to perform? (3:9)
114. What worldwide event was predicted by Christ? (3:10)
115. Why will the world experience an "hour of trial"? (3:10)
116. What was promised to the church at Philadelphia because of its patient endurance? (3:10)
117. How did Jesus instruct the believers in Philadelphia to prepare for His coming? (3:11)
118. What did Jesus promise at the conclusion of this letter? (3:11-12)
119. How did Jesus challenge us? (3:11-13)
120. What promises were made to "him who overcomes" in Philadelphia? (3:12)
121. In addition to the church at Philadelphia, who else was encouraged to heed this message? (3:13)
122. What can we do to prepare for Christ's return?

Lesson 10 - To the Church in Laodicea - Revelation 3:14-22

REV 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. [15] I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! [16] So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. [17] You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. [18] I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

REV 3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. [20] Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

REV 3:21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. [22] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 10 - To the Church in Laodicea - Revelation 3:14-22

123. Who spoke these words and told John to write them down? (3:14)
124. What church was the focus of this letter from Jesus? (3:14)
125. By what unusual description did Jesus identify Himself? (3:14)
126. How did Jesus describe the church at Laodicea? (3:15)
127. What response did Jesus promise to the Laodicean church because of its behavior? (3:16)
128. In what ways was the Laodicean church deceived? (3:17)
129. What counsel did "the ruler of God's creation" give to this church? (3:18)
130. What did the Laodicean Christians need? Why? (3:18)
131. What reason did Jesus give for His stern warnings? (3:19)
132. What invitation was given to individual Christians in Laodicea? (3:20)
133. What did Christ promise to do if accepted and embraced by the Laodiceans? (3:20)
134. What promise was made to "him who overcomes" in Laodicea? (3:21)
135. How did Christ conclude His message to this wayward church? (3:22)
136. What do we know about the Laodicean Christians from the fact that Jesus described Himself as being outside the door?