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Revelation 3

YouTube Prayer Link

The bride's desire

Revelation 3

Continue to deliver God's message to seven Asian churches.

The first letter was addressed to the Church of Sardis, warning them to wake up and strengthen their faith because they had become spiritually dead. The second letter was addressed to the church in Philadelphia, praising their loyalty and assuring them of a reward. A third letter was addressed to the Laodicean church, criticizing them for their fervent faith and encouraging them to repent zealously. Jesus promised to stand at the door and knock, and whoever opened the door would go in and dine with them. Sardis was a wealthy merchant city, about forty-five kilometers south of Thyatira, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia, known for its extravagant lifestyle, Sardis was the church after Thyatira and Protestantism after Rome. Although Sardis includes Reformation, it does not represent Reformation, and Sardis represents Protestantism. Sardis is characterized by the fact that he is "alive by name, but dead in reality." The Protestant Church was originally a Protestant movement to get rid of Roman Catholic adultery and idolatry, but as a result, the world and the church were still mixed.

The hand of the Lord holds not only the seven stars, but also the seven spirits. In other words, the seven spirits are one with the seven stars. "Sardis" means "remnant" or "escaped" people, and is a type of Protestantism. "Your deeds are alive in name, but in fact they are dead." At that time, the emphasis was only on faith and not on works, but it did not occur to us that faith necessarily produced works. Justification by faith is a fact, not just a dogma, but also requires the work of the Holy Spirit to be born again. "Faith without works is dead." The Church of Sardis, though it

has fulfilled its obligations and baptized believers, does not find the slightest sense of longing or urgency for the truth in their hearts, and is a dead Church. As a result, they: insensitivity to heresy; defenseless against external attacks; There is godliness, but there is no power to godliness

When John wrote to the church at Sardis, Sardian society was in decline. Sardis was fallen twice because he refused to watch and was too lazy to guard. Today, Sardis is in ruins, and all the wealth and glory of the past is a thing of the past. The Christian church also ceased to exist.

Sardis is a type of church history from 1200 to 1517 'at the end of the Dark Ages', on the eve of Martin Luther's Reformation, so the Lord says to them: "Yet there are some of you who have not defiled their clothes, but they will walk with me in white" (v.4), i.e. for the leading Reformers such as Martin Luther in Germany, Friedrich in Switzerland and John · Knox in Scotland.

Sardis did not suffer when he persecuted the Church in the Roman Empire, because there was no suffering outside, so he began to corrupt inside, and the Lord called him "You are alive in name, but you are dead".

【Rev. 3:2】 "Be on the lookout! Strengthen the remnant that is about to fade, for I have seen none of thy works perfect in the sight of my God

Rev 3:3 The coming of the Lord Jesus will be sudden, like a thief, unpredictable, and must be watched. But this is not about His second coming, but about the punishment that will be inflicted now if you don't repent.

The four commands of the Church of Sardis show that the believers of the Church of Sardis still have a chance to repent. Remember how you received and how you heard: Don't forget the joy and gratitude you felt when you first heard the gospel. Believers can only stand properly in faith when they are constantly in the presence of the cross of Christ, meditating on the great grace and love of God. Repent: Requires people to abandon the worldly things they have followed in the past and to follow Christ completely. Obedience: It means obedience to the commands of the gospel, which are not instantaneous commands, but continuous and permanent commands. If you are not watchful: Commands everyone to equip themselves spiritually to maintain the purity of the bride for the second coming of Christ in order to overcome the wiles of the devil and to prevail in the day of tribulation.

【Rev 3:4】 "But there are some of you in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white robes, for they are worthy."

In the history of Protestantism, God has raised up a small number of people to see the new truth and establish the so-called independent church, and these people who have come out of different opinions are divided into categories to the state religion, but in the eyes of God, they are undefiled, worthy to walk with the Lord in white garments. "White clothes", clothes speak of deeds, and their deeds are alive and unpolluted. Therefore wear white clothing, for it is worthy. has not defiled his own clothes": can maintain the standard of Christian conduct.

White garments are expressions of unstained holiness, glory and victory, as when the ancient Roman armies returned victorious and returned to the Roman market for a triumphal salute, they rode white horses and wore white clothes. The city that celebrates victory is called the White City. Warriors dressed in white are rewarded in different ways. The Latin poet said, "The great eagle of the Roman Empire is held high, and its whole mouth is a sign of glory and majesty, and the trumpets are often sounded on the left and right in front, and the horses of the cavalry brigade are white." From this, we can see that when the Lord said to the believers in the church at Sardis, "They shall walk with me in white robes" and "In the same way all who overcome shall wear white robes" (Rev. 3:5), it means that they are undefiled, have a holy heart, worship before God, are worthy to wear this white garment, and are victorious enough to walk with God, to receive God's reward, and to enjoy the freedom and glory of life with Him forever.

"Philadelphia" means brotherly love. Sardis is characterized by a struggle with death. The church is united with the world, and it is to be detached forever, and death and life are to be constantly struggling, this Sardis. But Philadelphia is brotherly love. From the chaos of the world, return to the original position of brothers. In other words, it is to stand in the position of the body, and not to admit that there is any other relationship, but only to recognize the relationship of brothers; Acknowledging that there is other fellowship, only acknowledging that there is fellowship of love. This is Philadelphia! — Watchman Nee, "The First Faith Makes Up"

"Philadelphia" means brotherly love. Philadelphia is about 60 km southeast of Sardis, Although the non-urban churches are small in size, lack of financial resources, have a harsh environment, and have thorny roads ahead, they are trying to keep the Lord's way. There is not a word of reproach in John's letter.

The Lord Jesus said to the believers in Philadelphia, 'I have opened before you a door that no one can open' (v.8). Philadelphia and non-believers understood it when they heard it, and the gospel was preached freely and unhindered in this city.

When the Lord Jesus says to the non-believers in Philadelphia, 'I will keep you from your trials in the time of the trials of the whole world' (v.10), implying that there will be people who are safe and harmless during the earthquake. In the same way, spiritually, it also shows that in times of universal tribulation, believers have been raptured into the air and are not harmed by earthly tribulations. Again, the Lord says, 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in my temple, and he will not go out of there again' (v.12), also against the backdrop of the events of the earthquake.

The Lord Jesus said to them, 'I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of my city and my new name' (v.12), and there are three names, just as there are three names in Philadelphia, all of which express love and grace.

[Rev. 3:7,8 Meaning of holding David's key and the open door: David's key (Rev. 3:7) This is John's quote from Isaiah (Isaiah 22:22). The key means to have power, "that is, holy, true, taking the key of David, which is opened, no one can shut it, and when it is closed, no one can open it." It was the Lord Jesus who called himself the Holy One, and took the key of David, indicating that He had the authority of David as king, and all authority in heaven and on earth had been given to him, and no creature could shut up what the Lord had opened, nor could he open what the Lord had closed, not even Satan, for He was the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and He alone was the key to the kingdom of God, and the authority of the eternal king.

[Rev. 3:7, 9 "David's key and open door" indicates that he has the authority of David as king.] He will sit on the throne of David and reign. And because he is to be the king of kings, he has the greatest and final power. John's words here are quoting Isaiah 2:22 that God will place the keys of David's house on the shoulders of Eliakim, the son of Hilkiah, the ruler of the Hezekiah dynasty (2 Kings 18:18).

【Rev3:7-13】 Of the seven churches, only the church of Philadelphia and Smyrna was not rebuked. In Philadelphia, there is only praise and no rebuke. Philadelphia is the church of the Lord's heart. **【Rev 3:8】** "I know your deeds, and you have a little power:

Philadelphia obeyed the word of the Lord and did not reject the name of the Lord. There is a group of people who have been brought by God to the point where they have returned completely to the Word of the Lord. Among them there is no creed, no doctrine, no heredity, no human will, no authority, only words. In the history of the church, it was only in Philadelphia that the Word of God was given its rightful place. There has not been a time in the history of the church when a deacon with so many words has been like Philadelphia. In the church of Philadelphia, Jesus' promises were far greater than what they had done.

Jesus promised to open an open door before the church in Philadelphia, which no one could shut. It may refer to a missionary opportunity, but it is more likely to mean that the door to the eternal kingdom is open for them.

Jesus promised them to avenge their enemies. Verse 9, "And I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and I will let them know that I have loved you, and that they have come and worshiped them, and that they have come and worshiped them." "

Be saved in the final trial. Verse 10, "Because you keep the word of my patience, I will keep you from your trials in all the world." "

"Open Doors": Generally regarded as a good opportunity to preach the gospel, even to the Jews who oppose it, can be converted. But verse 7 says that Christ has opened for them the door to the eternal kingdom, which no one can shut. Therefore it can also mean that the door to eternal life is open for them. Open Door: The door to heaven.

"The time of the trials of the whole world" refers to the trials before the coming of the eternal kingdom, and here the trials are for the non-Christian world. The church can be kept by the Lord

in the great trial, but no one in the world can escape this judgment. —Commentary on the Enlightened Version of the Bible

My Word of Patience: There are two opinions: one is the command, which refers to suffering until the second coming of Christ; The second refers to the apostle's teaching that believers are to imitate Christ's endurance in the world, and they should also endure the contradictions of this wicked world.

Rev. 3:10 Does "keep you from your trials in the time of the trials of the whole world" refers to the rapture of believers who are lifted up into the air to be spared the pain of the great tribulation when there is a great tribulation on earth?]

Many interpreters believe that when the Lord Jesus prophesied the great tribulation of the last days, the church was first lifted into the air to "be spared" the suffering of the great tribulation. The church in Philadelphia was a type of the Reformation until the return of the Lord, when the door of evangelism was opened, and when the number of Gentiles saved was satisfied, the church was caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

The "whole world" is unprecedented in history, global, and the great tribulation is because the devil no longer has a place and the church is raptured

When the Lord Jesus came back from heaven, he first came down into the air, as Paul said, the believers will be divided into two kinds of resurrection from the dead and those who are changed from the living, and then they will be caught up into the air together, and then the great tribulation will begin in the world, but this great tribulation cannot harm the believers, because the believers are already in the air.

【Rev 3:12】 "And I will make him a pillar in the house of my God, and he will go out no more. And upon him shall I write upon the name of my God, and on the name of the city of my God, which is the New Jerusalem that came down from heaven from my God, and upon him." He will make a pillar in my temple, and he will go out no more from thence.

Located at the intersection of three official trade routes, Laodicea was an administrative and commercial center that was a wealthy city during the Roman Empire. In A.D. 60, it was destroyed by an earthquake and rebuilt without the help of the empire. There is a world-famous eye hospital in the city; The sheep flocks on the outskirts of the city are everywhere, and the black wool produced is famous for its pure softness. The city also has a financial center that even Egypt envies, where currencies of various countries can be exchanged. What is said in verses 17~18 is relevant to this background. There was not a single word of praise in the letter, and the reproach was the highest of the seven churches. But Christ repeatedly expressed love because he loved him and rebuked him (v.19). The promise given to the overcomers is also the crown of the churches—"Sit with me on my throne." "Laodicea" is the only church of the seven churches that is not appreciated by the Lord.

Jesus says to the Laodicean followers, 'You are neither cold nor hot, but lukewarm' (v.15), who were lukewarm to false gods and are now lukewarm to the true God. There are hot springs

outside the city, and the spring water is not boiling, neither cold nor hot, which is just a portrayal of the believers of Laodicea.

The Lord rebuked him for not being hot, but he boasted about his coldness. The farther a person is from God, the less light he has, the less he sees what he is not, but he feels good. He has no cold reproach, and Rong Yi has no fiery longing. It is painful that he is poor, miserable, and naked, and he does not know it. The Laodicean church completely replaced the will of God with the will of man and spiritual abundance with material comforts. **【Rev. 3:17】** "You say, "I am rich, I have become rich, and I lack nothing. but they do not know that thou art wretched, and wretched, and poor, and blind, and naked." "Poverty" means that a person has no savings in God's jar. Poverty is not the only one that is absent today; Poverty has never been there. God doesn't like His children to live by temporary grace, God likes His children to have saved up grace.

【Rev. 3:18】 "I exhort you to buy from me the gold of the fire, that you may be rich; and buy white garments, and put them on, that the shame of thy nakedness may not be revealed;

The Lord Jesus told the church at Laodicea to buy gold from fire. The gold refined by fire is the word of God. There is a quest in God's truth, to read the Bible, to pray. It is the Word of God that truly enriches people. With the Word of God in your heart, you are the richest man in the world. True riches are not an increase in worldly treasures, but an abundance of spiritual words. With the word of God as the foundation, life can grow.

"Eye medicine" is light. Many times, God is there to deal with you, and you don't know it.

There are three 'buys' here: to buy gold from fire refining, to buy white clothes, and to buy eye medicine. These 'buys' are a matter of cost, and the meaning of white clothing is to live as a person to show God's own purity. Eye medicine to heal, the eyes will be bright.

"Gold refined by fire" is faith, the word of God, and "white clothing" is an act of faith. "Eye medicine" medicine, but here it refers to the Holy Spirit.

In this section appears Christ's request to the Laodicean church to repent. If people open their hearts to Jesus, they will share eternal joy and eternal life with the Lord Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit. On the contrary, those who hide their faces and ignore the voice of the Holy Spirit and close the doors of their hearts will be separated from Jesus Christ for eternity, that is, they will perish.

Let's pray:

Father God, I am willing to accept any punishment, but do not take it to my cross. So that I may obey your will and love the cross you have given me. The bride warrior is to overcome the

world, pray that the Lord will help us, believing that we can overcome because each of our leaders is in the hands of Jesus, and Jesus is among us, and He is our answer. Give us the gift of your satisfaction, that you may glorify your name in me, according to your own will. Thank you for showing us our weakness through your exhortation to the churches of Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Pray that the Lord will help us to repent of our behavior, to regain our original receiving, and to become a Christian.

In the holy name of Jesus Christ. amen

Revelation 3

3:1 Write your faith to the messengers of the Church of Sardis, saying, "He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, saying, I know your works, that you are alive in name, and that you are dead in fact."

3:2 You have to be watchful and firm what is left to fade . For I have seen that none of thy deeds are perfect before my God.

3:3 So remember how you received and listened . and obey and repent. But if you do not watch, I will come to you as a thief. When I come, you will never know.

3:4 yet there are a few more in Sardis who have not defiled their garments . They will wear white clothes and go with me . because they deserve it.

3:5 Whoever overcomes must wear white in the same way . and I will not blot his name out of the book of life. and confess his name before my Father and before my Father's messengers.

3:6 Whoever has ears should hear what the Holy Spirit says to the congregation.

3:7 Thou shalt write a letter to the messenger of the Church of Lattiphil, saying, "That holy and true, holding the key of the Great Vid, when it is opened, no one can care, when it is closed, no one can open it,

3:8 I know your ways, you have a little strength, you have obeyed my ways, and you have not renounced my name. Behold, no one can give you an open door before you.

3:9 And Satan who will come and say, who claims to be a Jew, is not a Jew, but a liar, and I will cause them to come and bow down at your feet, and to let them know that I already love you.

3:10 For if you keep the word of my patience, I will keep you from your trials while all the world is being tested.

3:11 I will come quickly, and you will hold fast to what you have, lest anyone take away your crown.

3:12 And I will make him a pillar in the house of my God, and he will not go out of there again. And I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God, and my new name.

3:13 Whoever has ears should hear what the Holy Spirit says to the congregation.

3:14 Write to the messenger of the order of Laodicea, saying, "The one who is Athen, who is the witness of faith, who is the head of God's creation of all things,

3:15 I know your deeds , and you are neither cold nor hot . I can't get you cold or hot .

3:16 Because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of my mouth.

3:17 You say, "I am rich, I have made a fortune , I lack all of all . but they do not know that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

3:18 I beseech you to buy gold from me that you may be rich. and buy white clothes and put them on, so that the shame of thy nakedness may not be revealed. and buy eye medicine and rub thy eyes so that thou mayest see.

3:19 Whoever I love, I will be responsible for disciplining him. Be zealous and repent.

3:20 behold, I stand outside the door and knock at the door . If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him, and I will sit with him, and he and I will sit with him.

3:21 And to him who overcomes, I will give him to sit with me on my throne, just as I won the victory and sat with him on my Father's throne.

3:22 Whoever has ears should hear what the Holy Spirit says to the congregation.

Revelation chapter 3

Continue to deliver God's message to seven Asian churches.

The first letter was addressed to the Church of Sardis, warning them to wake up and strengthen their faith because they had become spiritually dead. The second letter was addressed to the church in Philadelphia, praising their loyalty and assuring them of a reward. A third letter was addressed to the Laodicean church, criticizing them for their fervent faith and encouraging them to repent zealously. Jesus promised to stand at the door and knock, and whoever opened the door would go in and dine with them.

The key verses of the third chapter of the book of Revelation are in the Chinese version in the Harmony Version.

1. Revelation 3:2-3 - Watch and strengthen the remnant that is about to fade, for I see that none of your works is perfect before my God. Remember, then, how you received and how you listened, and obey and repent. But if you do not keep watch, I will come to you like a thief, and you do not know when I will come to you.

2. Revelation 3:5 - In the same way, he that overcomes will be clothed in white robes, and I will not blot out his name in the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

3. Revelation 3:8 - Hear what the Holy Spirit says to the churches: Thou hast done many powerful works, and I know that thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not rejected my name. Behold, I have given thee an open door before thee, which no man can shut, because thou hast kept my word, though thou hast any strength, and hast not denied my name.

4. Revelation 3:15-16 - I know your deeds, and you are neither cold nor hot; Thou wishest I was hot or cold, so I will spit thee out of my mouth.

5. Revelation 3:20-21 - Behold, I stand at the door and knock, and if anyone hears my voice and opens it, I will come in to him, and I will sit at the table with him, and he with me. And to him who overcomes, I will give him to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with him on my Father's throne.

Revelation chapter 3 continues to explore Jesus Christ's message to four other churches, continuing the theme of chapter 2. These messages continue to emphasize the faithfulness, perseverance, purity, and obedience to God's Word. Here are some of the highlights of the theological implications, theological thinking, and spiritual impact of Chapter 3:

State of the Believer: Jesus sent a message to the churches of Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, and Ferrap. His descriptions of these churches reveal the spiritual state of believers, including their virtues, challenges, and areas for improvement.

The Church That Thinks It Lives: Jesus told the church at Sardis that they have fame and reputation, but they are "self-conceived to live" before God. This warns believers not to fall into formalism, but to truly live a spiritual life.

Spiritual Poverty: Jesus encouraged the church in Philadelphia to recognize its spiritual poverty in order to rely on God's grace and provision. This reminds believers to be humble and rely on God rather than themselves.

Spiritual zeal: Jesus pointed out to the Laodicean church their mildness and lack of spiritual zeal. He called them to repentance and return to their passion and love for God.

The Reward of Loyalty: Jesus offers the reward of loyalty in several messages. He encouraged believers to persevere in the midst of persecution and hardship in order to receive spiritual rewards in the last days.

The Importance of Obedience: Jesus emphasized the importance of heeding God's Word and guidance. He encouraged believers to heed his teachings and remain in awe and obedience to God's Word.

Spiritual Purity: Jesus urged the Philaphu church to get rid of moral corruption and spiritual defilement and to pursue a life of purity and holiness.

In terms of theological thought and spiritual influence, Revelation chapter 3 continues to emphasize the importance of the believer's spiritual state, loyalty, purity, and obedience. These messages call on Christians to remain spiritually awake, to be strong in their faith, and to live as Christ in their lives. These teachings also remind us to always be humble, to seek God's guidance, and to avoid falling into complacency and worldly temptations. At the same time, these messages encourage us to strive for God's kingdom and spiritual rewards and not to shrink back from difficulties.