

May 7, 2023

“The Least I Can Do” Revelation 3

Vol.13 Num. 19

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

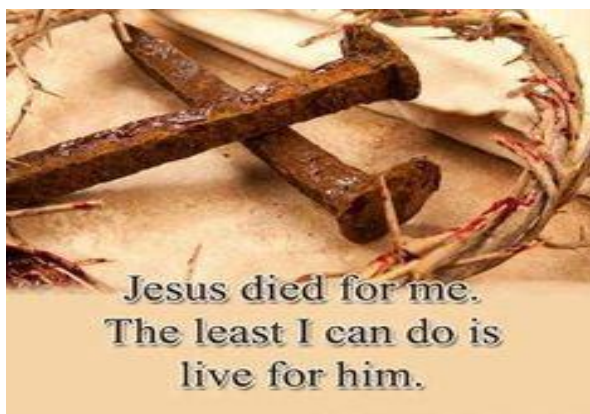
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Revelation is called an “*apocalyptic*” book as it unveils and reveals truth in a vivid and poetic way. Its popularity as evidenced by T.V. preachers, prophecy seminars, books and even movies, has become a focus of how the end times will unfold. However, there are two things we should remember as we study Revelation:

First, it was a first century letter addressed to seven churches in the Roman province of Asia. Its purpose was to challenge those believers to live and worship the one, true God and separate themselves from a world that challenged His sovereign rule.

Second, it is a prediction of future events that every generation is to be aware of and not just ours. Attempting to set dates for Christ’s return has been and always will be futile. The fulfillment of events recorded in Revelation will be based on God’s timetable and not on ours.

So how can we benefit the most from studying Revelation? By remembering John’s original mandate to the seven churches, “*Blessed is the one who reads...hears and keeps the words of this prophecy.*” (Revelation 1:3).

This week, we will look at the last three churches in Revelation...Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Enjoy!



Revelation 3 – ESV

To the Church in Sardis

¹“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

²“I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. ³Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. ⁴Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

To the Church in Philadelphia

⁷“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

⁸“I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. ¹⁰Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. ¹²The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. ¹³He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

To the Church in Laodicea

¹⁴“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

¹⁵“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered 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.’”

● **EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from these passages. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

🕒 **EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

The Church at Sardis

1. In **Verse 1**, what was the Lord's impression of the Sardis congregation?
2. In **Verses 2-3**, what specific steps does Jesus prescribe for this church to be restored?
3. In **Verses 4-5**, what promises does Jesus make to those who remain faithful?
4. In **Verses 5-6**, can the "*names of believers*" be erased from the Book of Life?

The Church of Philadelphia

5. In **Verse 7**, list the attributes of Jesus. What authority does He possess?
6. In **Verse 8**, what does Jesus know about the church in Philadelphia? What do you think it means to "*keep His Word*"?

7. In **Verse 9**, what was “*the synagogue of Satan*” guilty of?

8. In **Verses 10**, what reward is promised to those who “*patiently endure*”?

9. In **Verse 11**, why were the believers exhorted to “*hold fast to what they have*”? What do you think their “*crown*” was?

10. In **Verses 12-13**, what are the rewards for those “*who conquer*”? What do you think a “*pillar in the Temple*” is?

The Church of Laodicea

11. In **Verses 14-16**, what was the Lord’s impression of the Laodicean congregation?

12. In **Verse 17**, how did the Laodicean’s view themselves?

13. In **Verses 18-19**, what counsel does Jesus give to this church?

14. Are **Verses 20-22** an appeal to Christians or non-Christians?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

From **Revelation 3** (honestly) evaluate the following:

15. Yourself as a Christian.

16. Your relationship with other members at CLBC.

17. Your relationship with Jesus.

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Outline and Notes