

## Revelation 3

### Review:

- Jesus is the center of every revelation
- John of Patmos—writing through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (vision to record 1:19)
- Seven stars—angels of churches; seven lampstands—seven churches
- Writing to address the seven churches in Asia Minor
  - Warning to Churches:
    1. **Ephesus**: loveless church
    2. **Smyrna**: encourages a persecuted church
    3. **Pergamum**: addresses persecution and compromise
    4. **Thyatira**: challenges compromise
- Parallels to the Exodus Story

### 1. Revelation 3:1-6 Church in **Sardis**

- A. Alive/ Dead—Calling the church at Sardis to wake-up!
- B. Reaffirmation in v. 1—seven spirits(Isaiah) and seven stars.
- C. Seem to have peacefully co-existed with the synagogue community
- D. They have grown comfortable in their relationship with the world! Sounds familiar!
- E. Spiritual state is hindering those in Sardis from experiencing the resurrection power of Jesus!
- F. Soiled linens vs. white—metaphor—not speaking of clothes but the heart.
- G. Threat of paganism might hold them from the book of life.
- H. Awake—change from within—renewal—need to avoid going with the flow.

### 2. Revelation 3:7-13 Church in **Philadelphia**

- A. Philadelphian church has little strength. Situation is similar to those in Smyrna (poverty). The Holy Spirit is calling the church to persevere.
- B. Jesus is not only the root of David (5:5, 22:16) but the One who opens the entrance into the highest authority in the kingdom (Isaiah 22:15-25)
- C. Jesus is the one who provides entrance into the new Jerusalem
- D. Opposition in the synagogue
- E. Gentiles will one day bow down before Jews (Isaiah 60:14) but now Jews and unbelievers will bow before faithful believers.
- F. Contrast between those who live in heaven and those who live on earth.
- G. Faithful will be a pillar in the temple of God. (Believers will worship eternally in His presence)

### 3. Revelation 3:14-22 Church in **Laodicea**

- A. “Amen”—Hebrew word of confirmation—assurance of all the promises.
- B. Ruler of Creation—from the beginning.
- C. Water supply was horrible in the city; water was piped in a aqueduct and the time it reached the city—the water was lukewarm—disgusting; neither hot or cold.
- D. Challenge of thinking they are self-sufficient. (Wealthy banking, textile center)
- E. Verses 17-18: Spiritual v. physical
- F. Repent—rethink beliefs, priorities, and actions. Where is the source of power?