

# Called To Closeness - Revelation 3

## I. Intro

A. Costco shirt - Jesus, just believe in Him

1. Yes believe, but a full Christian life requires more
  - a) In this chapter, Jesus invites 3 churches into more

## II. Sardis - A Dead Church Jesus Can Raise

A. Reputation of Life, but Dead

1. (v. 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."*)

a) Not a great intro - look alive but really dead

(1) Sardis = comfortable - *taken over twice, no watch*

(a) *Often say struggling, mean given in completely*

B. Wake Up!

1. (v. 2-3: *Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, 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.*)

a) Problem - deeds left unfinished

(1) *Good intentions, no actions (tell MDay plan, no rez)*

(a) Good hopes aren't enough

(2) Prescription - go back to what you heard last

(a) *Have to fix last fight before moving on*

i) *Not hearing God, go to what He said last*

C. Opportunity For Life

1. (v. 4-6: 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. <sup>5</sup> The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. <sup>6</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.)

a) God's heart - wants them to walk well

(1) Not looking to blot out, wants to cleanse

(2) God's desire is your healing, not your destruction

### III. Philadelphia - A Church With Opportunity

#### A. An Opportunity For Faithful Growth

1. (v. 7-8: "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. <sup>8</sup> 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.)

a) Two reasons for confidence

(1) God opens door, no one can shut - *not their ideas*

(a) *Psalm 127:1 "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain."*

(2) They hold the right position

(a) Little strength - *actual but not overconfident*

(b) Obedient church - "kept my word"

(c) Faithful to Jesus - "not denied"

i) Our little is useful w/obedience and faithfulness

## B. God's Protection In Testing

1. (v. 9-10: *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. <sup>10</sup> Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.*)

a) Synagogue of Satan - just this group, not all Jews

b) Often our fear - we reach out, far persecution

(1) *American persecution vs. global persecution*

(a) God's promise - He will protect His people

i) "Hour of trial" - likely the tribulation period

c) App. - God is with us as we struggle for His name

## C. A Sound Place For The Faithful

1. (v. 11-13: *Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. <sup>12</sup> The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them 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 them my new name. <sup>13</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*)

a) Our outcome - we will be made solid

(1) *Psalm 1:3 "That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season,*

*and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."*

(2) *Matthew 7:24-25 "Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."*

(a) Want something permanent - only God gives it

#### **IV. Laodicea - The Lukewarm Church Jesus Wants To Join**

##### A. Neither Hot Nor Cold

1. (v. 14-16: *"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. <sup>15</sup> I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*)

a) Final church - problem of neither hot nor cold

(1) **Cold drinking springs, warm eye salve springs**

(a) Lukewarm did neither, useless water

b) **Church tried to please world & God - can't happen**

(1) To stay in the middle is to pick a side

##### B. Not Seeing Their Need

1. (v. 17-19: *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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.)

a) What blinds this church - wealth

(1) *“have problem, have money, don’t have a problem”*

(a) Works on many things, but not spirituality

b) **REASON 1 | MONEY DOESN’T LAST**

(1) *Proverbs 23:5 “Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.”*

(a) *Montage in UP, constantly smashing glass jar*

i) *Why lean on something that doesn’t last?*

c) **REASON 2 | MONEY DOESN’T BUY EVERYTHING**

(1) *Matthew 16:26 “What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”*

(a) *Ivan G - max out every credit card I have*

d) So - **gain what matters!** (His gold/clothes/salve)

(1) *How? Spend in His economy. Time w/Him, hearing His voice, kingdom work, fellowship, etc.*

### C. An Invitation To Closeness

1. *(v. 20-22: 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 that person, and they with me. <sup>21</sup> To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”)*

a) Often used for evangelism, and that idea works

(1) 1 Tim. 2:4 “[God] wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

b) This verse isn't to the world, but the church

(1) God doesn't just want our belief but our closeness

(a) Growing, focus on serving/moral - fruit of abiding

i) John 10:10 “I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.”

ii) John 17:3 “This is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

(b) Not about distant peace w/God, but closeness

## V. Conclusion

A. When Jesus knocks, we should accept His invitation

1. For non-believers, He is reaching out w/love

2. For believers, He wants closeness and not just belief