

What Jesus wants for his church - reality

Revelation 3:1-6

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service, Sunday 17th March 2024

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Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision





1. Jesus' rebuke (v1)

Revelation 3v1

I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

Isaiah 29v13

These people come near to me with their mouth
and honour me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

Three dangers:

- **Nominalism** – where we attend church or regard ourselves as Christians but yet we have no real relationship with Jesus Christ
- **Activism** – where we are busy with church meetings and activities but yet our spiritual life underneath is empty
- **Formalism** – where we are concerned about structures and traditions but yet have no real personal love for Jesus

2. Jesus' remedy (v2-3)

Revelation 3v3

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.



Revelation 3v3

Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent.

Revelation 3v1

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

3. Jesus' reward (v4-6)

- Purity (v4-5)

Revelation 3v4

They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.

3. Jesus' reward (v4-6)

- Purity (v4-5)
- Security (v5)

Revelation 3v5

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.

Revelation 21v22-27

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendour into it.

Revelation 21v22-27

²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

“To have reputation for life is insufficient; we must possess an inward reality and purity, which are known and pleasing to God. We must neither soil our clothes or betray our name. Filled with the living Spirit of Christ, we can conquer. Then at last we shall wear white garments and walk with Christ in heaven; and our names, indelibly inscribed in the book of life, will be acknowledged before God and the angels.”

John Stott