

“LETTERS FROM JESUS - Pt. 6” (Rev. 2:18-3:6)

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REVIEW/INTRO: Let’s work our way through the letters Jesus dictated to the churches of Thyatira (2:18-29) and Sardis (3:1-6).

I. Ephesus – the church that left its first love (2:1-7).

II. Smyrna – the suffering, but faithful church (2:8-11).

III. Pergamos – tolerated false doctrine (2:12-17).

IV. THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN THYATIRA (Rev. 2:18-29). This is the longest of the letters.

1. Thyatira was a small unimpressive city with many pagan trade guilds which practiced idolatry and immorality.

2. Jesus comes to this church as, **“the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass”** (Rev. 2:18)

3. Commendation (v. 19): increased works, love, service (ministry), faith, patience (perseverance).

4. Correction (vv. 20-23): tolerated a woman with a Jezebel spirit who led others into idolatry & sexual immorality.

A. Jezebel is a reference to King Ahab’s wicked wife in 1 & 2 Kings.

B. This Jezebel called herself a prophetess.

C. Because of unrepentance her and her followers were about to face judgement (vv. 21-23).

1) Repentance has an expiration date!

2) Sin has serious consequences (Jer. 17:10)!

3) Feet like fine brass represents judgment.

5. Exhortation to The Remnant (vv. 24-29)

A. Hold fast until this is over (His judgment comes).

B. Overcome and I’ll give you power over the nations and the morning star [Jesus – Rev. 22:16] (Rev. 12:5; 19:15; Mt. 25:23; 1Cor. 6:1; Ps. 2).

V. THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN SARDIS (Rev. 3:1-6).

1. Sardis was a wealthy pagan city known for its woolen garments. It had been captured twice and had also been partially destroyed by an earthquake in AD 17.

2. Jesus introduces Himself as, **“He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars”** (v. 1a)

3. No commendation was given to Sardis!

4. Correction (vv. 1b-2) - This church had a reputation of being alive but was spiritually dead (v. 1b).

A. It takes more than people and activity to have spiritual life (Example: a graveyard)!

B. Did a lack of adversity result in spiritual lethargy?

C. Did they have just enough life to be inoculated?

D. Were they too concerned about being liked and accepted by their culture?

“Be watchful [wake up!], and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.” (Rev. 3:2)

5. Exhortation (vv. 3-4).

A. Remember where you came from.

B. Hold fast to the little life that remains.

C. Repent, or I will come to you in judgment!

D. There was a worthy remnant in the church.

6. Promise to the Overcomer (v. 5).

A. Clothed in white garments (righteousness).

B. Name won’t be blotted out of Book of Life (20:15).

C. Jesus will confess before His Father & angels (Matt. 10:32-33).

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Rev. 3:6)

Let’s overcome all obstacles!