

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How was Sardis considered a dying church?
2. What charge was given to Sardis that applies to us today?
3. How do we “hold fast”?
4. What is the significance of the “open door” message to the church at Philadelphia.
5. What is liberalism?
6. What is legalism?

SUMMARY:

Sardis was, what we today would call, a nominal church. In other words it was quite religious, following many rituals and calling themselves Christians but not loving the way the Word of God teaches. If our lives do not measure up to what we teach, we become false Christians. It is sad that not everyone in a church devotes much time to worship, study and Christian service. Many feel they fulfill their obligations to the Lord if they attend church occasionally.

Christ’s charge to Sardis, to those who were upright, was to “hold fast”. Be awake and alert. Don’t let any of God’s commands be unfulfilled in our daily lives.

The open door given to Philadelphia was given because of their faithfulness and devotion to God. With this devotion and service to God is given the wonderful assurances of His divine protection and His rewards.

NOTES:

[SoF:14] We believe in the exercise of discipline by the church in order to deal with the presence of sin in the lives of its members.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #4

October 25, 2020

Fourth Quarter

CHRIST WARNS SARDIS AND PHILADELPHIA

LESSON TEXT: *Revelation 3:1-13*

LESSON SETTING: Christ warning the churches in Sardis and Philadelphia.

TIME: Approximately 96 A.D.

- I. CHRIST’S REBUKE [SoF:14] TO SARDIS.** Revelation 3:1-2
 - A. Formal Christianity (vs. 1) Isaiah 1:13; Matthew 23:23; 2 Timothy 3:5
 - B. False Profession of Christianity (vs. 1) Matthew 7:21; Mark 7:6; Titus 1:16
 - C. Spiritually Dead (vs. 1) Proverbs 21:16; 1 Timothy 5:6
 - D. Imperfect (vs. 2) 2 Kings 10:31; 13:18-19; 2 Chronicles 25:2
- II. CHRIST’S MESSAGE TO SARDIS.** Revelation 3:3-6
 - A. Remember (vs. 3) Luke 1:72; 24:6-7
 - B. Special Blessings (vs. 3) Romans 5:2; Colossians 1:26-27
 - C. Hold Fast (vs. 3) 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Hebrews 3:6; 10:23
 - D. Saints Known (vs. 4) John 10:14; 1 Corinthians 8:3; 2 Timothy 2:19
- III. CHRIST’S MESSAGE TO PHILADELPHIA.** Revelation 3:7-13
 - A. The Open Door (vs. 8) Isaiah 26:2; John 10:9; 1 Corinthians 16:9
 - B. Faithfulness (vs. 10) Psalm 103:17-18; Revelation 20:4
 - C. Divine Protection (vs. 10) John 17:11; 2 Timothy 1:12
 - D. A New Name (vs. 12) Isaiah 62:2; Acts 11:26

GOLDEN TEXT: *I KNOW THY WORKS: BEHOLD, I HAVE SET BEFORE THEE AN OPEN DOOR, AND NO MAN CAN SHUT IT.*

Revelation 3:8

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Revelation 3:14-22

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Amos 6:1-14; James 3:10-18

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, The Triumphant Lord

TOPIC: CHRIST WARNS LAODICEA

INTRODUCTION:

"I know thy works that thou art neither cold nor hot!" (Revelation 3:15)
What a charge this is! Then to think, as some teach this a description of our present church age, this means us!

It would be far better to either be cold or hot, not simply lukewarm. If we were cold, the Lord would be pleading with us to turn to Him. He would realize our urgent need of His salvation. It is far, far better, of course, to be hot, to recognize our need of the Lord daily and to be dependent upon Him. He wants to care for us. He wants to guide us in all our ways. How sad is the state of that man or woman who once was hot, spiritually, but has now become lukewarm. In God's goodness He has supplied many of us with great material gain and sad to say too often God's great blessings are looked upon as our own attainment. We are prone to build our confidence in these things and feel we have no need for the Lord. **LET US BECOME ON FIRE FOR THE LORD OR ELSE HE WILL SPUE US OUT!**

The Lord counsels us to buy gold purified by fire, spiritual things that are pure and acceptable to God. It is only if we build upon these things that we will have true riches. Paul writes to the Colossians, *"if ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."* (Colossians 3:1-2)

We cannot expect the Lord to use us in His service unless we are totally committed to Him. If we are content to use much of our time and our talents for things that are earthly, God cannot use the remainder of our time to serve Him. He **demand**s our entire life.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Every believer needs to examine himself carefully to see that his motives and actions please the Lord.

GOLDEN TEXT: ***BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR, AND KNOCK: IF ANY MAN HEAR MY VOICE, AND OPEN THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN TO HIM, AND WILL SUP WITH HIM, AND HE WITH ME.***

Revelation 3:20

How often have we heard this scripture brought to us in messages and yet how often have we failed to see all the implications in this one verse. Jesus said, *"I stand at the door and knock."* He **comes** to us and desires admission. He doesn't knock and then quickly leave again, but rather stands there at our heart's door, waiting and waiting for us to respond. Not only does He stand and knock, but he also calls. He said too, *"If any man hear my voice."* How can anyone ever say they have not been given an opportunity? If we are not inclined to hear the "knocking" at our heart's door, how can we turn deaf ears to His voice identifying Himself? Remember Paul on the way to Damascus when the Lord appeared to him on the way, he said, *"Who art thou Lord?"* On the one hand he may not have desired to acknowledge Christ as Lord, but deep inside he instinctively knew the voice of the Lord and Jesus' identity of Himself only verified what Paul already knew in his heart.

If we are to enjoy the intimate fellowship of our Lord, we must open the door, we must give ear to His voice and allow Him to come into our hearts. What blessed fellowship can be ours if we allow it.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Oct. 26 – Nov. 1

- M. Spiritual Alternatives. 2 Chronicles 7:12-22
- T. A Call to Repentance. 2 Chronicles 29:3-11
- W. Last-Day Conditions Foretold. Luke 17:26-37
- T. Man's Blindness to His Bondage. John 8:30-39
- F. Man's Tendency Toward Self-Deception. 2 Timothy 3:1-9
- S. Realistic Spiritual Evaluation. James 4:1-10
- S. *The Message to Laodicea. Revelation 3:14-22

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