



Hope in Troubled Times

“A Study in the Book of Revelation”

Listen Up, Churches (The Hot, The Not, The Somewhat)!

Intro:

- A Tale of Two Brothers (Matthew 21:28-32)
- Reputation, Self-Deception, and the Reality God knows and sees.
- Seeing by the Outer appearance or the inner heart (1 Sam 16:7)

I. Thyatira (Rev 2:18-28)

- “Plain Jane” town yet longest letter
- Impressive deeds at the heart of Christianity (1 Cor 13:13, Mic 6:8)
- Trade Guilds and impressing Others for economic and social reasons
 - San Francisco’s Gold Club and the Tech Community
- Tolerating “Jezebel” (1 Kings 16-19)
 - “What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace”
– John Wesley
- The bad influences that we allow will eventually infect and consume
 - Lemonade, Coffee and “Lemonoffee”
- Lesson: Who are we trying to impress by what we tolerate and who are we disappointing by tolerating what they disapprove of?

II. Sardis (Rev 3:1-6)

- Most negative rebuke of the 7 churches
- Living off a previous reputation that no longer is applicable
- 4 Stages of Church Life
 - Movement
 - Magnificence
 - Monument
 - Mausoleum
- Lesson: God’s Revival Strategy
 - Wake Up!
 - Strengthen What remains
 - Remember the foundations of the Faith
 - Embrace and Live out those Foundations!
 - REPENT! REPENT! REPENT!

III. Philadelphia (Rev 3:7-13)

- No Rebuke
- The Small church that could
- Inclusion in God’s kingdom when kicked out of God’s house by others (Jn 9)
 - The importance of “Keys”
- Lesson: When Christ Opens your door and welcomes you in, no one can shut that door in your face.

IV. Laodicea (Rev 3:14-22)

- Known for 4 things:
 - Great Wealth
 - Expensive and Exclusive black wool
 - Medical Wonders, especially eye salve
 - Terrible water supply!
- Lukewarm meaning: Convinced we are something we are not!
 - Jesus says the truth, even when not pleasant, because of His love.
- The problem wasn’t the problem, but it was the inability to see the problem that was the problem. (Jn 9:40-41)
 - Blinded by world’s understanding of evidence of “blessing”
- When Jesus isn’t allowed into His own church.

V. So What?

- Which Church of the & best represents You?

Ephesus	Right but lost love for God	Sardis	Reputation of life but truth your dead
Smyrna	Living in Tough times, but still faithful	Philadelphia	Small but Faithful
Pergamum	Compromised belief for Rewards	Laodicea	Blinded by Wordly Success and Standards
Thyatira	Tolerate Evil for Acceptance		

- What Doors Has Christ Opened for You?
 - To be Included in the Family (Acts 14:27)
 - To Do a Work for the Kingdom (1 Corinthians 16:8-9)
 - To Step Out in Faith (Gen 24, Heb 11, Matt 19:16-22)
- Have you opened the Door of Your Heart to Christ? (Rev 3:20)