

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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REVELATION 3

(Resources: Wilmington Guide to the Bible & The Inspirational Study Bible)

God continues to address the spiritual lives of His churches. He encouraged the church in the Asian city of Philadelphia to persevere through difficult times. But the churches in Sardis and Laodicea were told to repent of their sin. God does not tolerate a mediocre spiritual life. He wants all believers to be involved in loving and serving.

A. **The Letter to the Church at Sardis (Feeble Church – Wake Up), vv1-6**

- a. The Counselor, v1
- b. The Commendation, v4
- c. The Condemnation, v1
- d. The Counsel, vv 2-3
- e. The Challenge, v5-6

B. **The Letter to the Church at Philadelphia (Faithful Church – Hold Fast), vv7-13**

- a. The Counselor, v7-8
- b. The Commendation, v9
- c. The Condemnation – Nothing bad to say
- d. The Counsel, v11
- e. The Challenge, v8-10, 12-13

C. **The Letter to the Church at Laodicea (Foolish Church – Lukewarm), vv14-22**

- a. The Counselor, v14
- b. The Commendation – Nothing good to say
- c. The Condemnation, v15-17
- d. The Counsel, v18
- e. The Challenge, v19-22

Application:

If God gave you a report card on your relationship with Him, what would it say? Which are the areas you neglect? Continue what you are doing well; aggressively improve an area you have neglected.

Notes:

The Seven Churches of Revelation 2-3			
COMMENDATION	CRITICISM	INSTRUCTION	PROMISE
EPHESUS (2.1-7)			
Rejects evil, perseveres, has patience	Love for Christ no longer fervent	Do the works you did at first	The tree of life
SMYRNA (2.8-11)			
Gracefully bears suffering	None	Be faithful until death	The crown of life
PERGAMOS (2.12-17)			
Keeps the faith of Christ	Tolerated immorality, idolatry and heresies	Repent	Hidden manna and a stone with a new name
THYATIRA (2.18-29)			
Love, service, faith, and patience is greater than at first	Tolerated cult of idolatry and immorality	Judgment coming; keep the faith	Rule over nations and receive morning star
SARDIS (3.1-6)			
Some have kept the faith	A dead church	Repent; strengthen what remains	Faithful honored and clothed in white
PHILADELPHIA (3.7-13)			
Perseveres in the faith	None	Keep the faith	A place in God's presence, a new name, and the New Jerusalem
LAODICEA (3.14-22)			
None	Indifferent	Be zealous and repent	Share Christ's throne

The MacArthur Bible Handbook, by John MacArthur (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publisher's, 2003) 519 © 2003 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.