

***A Letter to the
Seven Churches***

Revelation 2:12-3:6

Going



Revelation 2-3

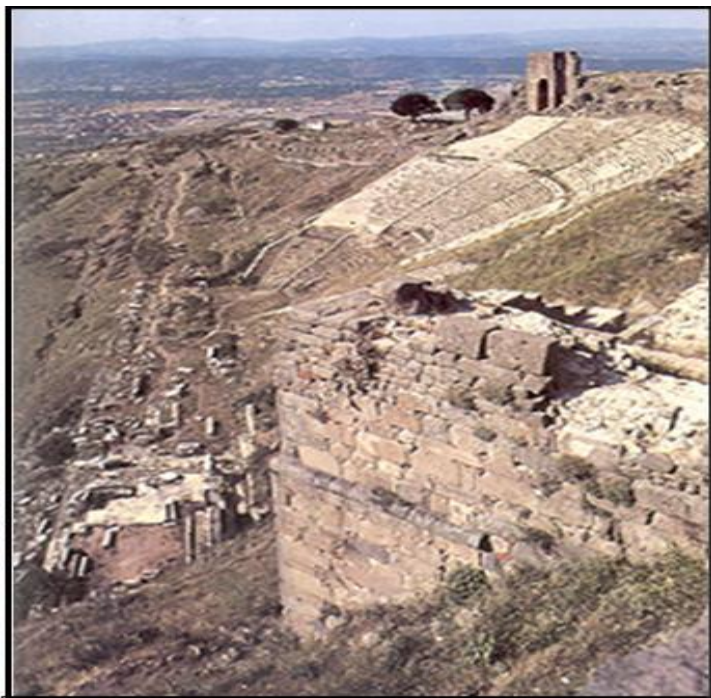
A Spiritual Healthcheck

“Be Overcomers”



- **Ephesus** – *Loyal but Loveless*
- **Smyrna** – *Afflicted but Affluence*
- **Pergamum** – *Faithful but Flaw*
- **Thyatira** – *Committed but Corrupted*
- **Sardis** – *‘Dynamic’ but Dying*
- **Philadelphia** – *Small but Significant*
- **Laodicea** – *Crowded but Christless*





Pergamum remains



Pergamum

*To the angel of the church
in Pergamum write:*

**A Commerce
Intellectual Centre
Third largest Library**

Residence of Satan!

***“I know where you live
– where Satan
has his throne.”***

Centre of Emperor and Pagan's Worship

Temple for the divine Augustus



***Zeus, Athene,
Dionysus, Aesclepius
(gods of healing)***



**Pergamum
Temple**

Attribute of Jesus

These are the words of *him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.*

The word of his mouth

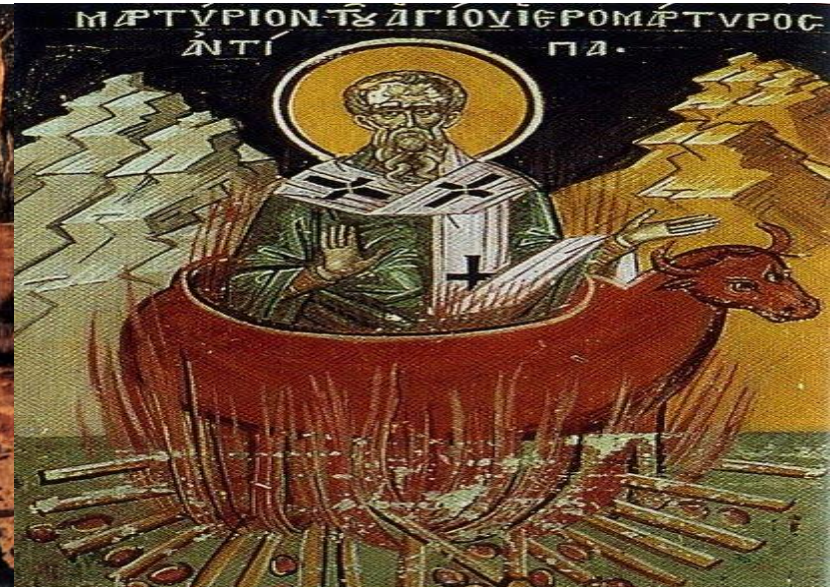
To defend and fight against Satan



Approval - Commendation

*“Yet you remain true to my name.
You did not renounce your faith in me,
even in the days of Antipas.”*

**They were faithful
to external threat**



Accusation – Flaw

*“¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you:
You have people there who hold to the teaching
of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the
Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols
and by committing sexual immorality...
teaching of Nicolaitans”*



**False teaching
from within
Giving in to
immorality**

Advice

16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.



Repent!
The word of his mouth
To fight, correct,
and transform.

Assurance/Appeal

*To him who overcomes, I will give some of the **hidden manna**. I will also give him a **white stone** with a **new name** written on it, known only to him who receives it.*



**Heavenly Food
Admission to heaven
New Responsibility
& Authority !**

The Thyatira church

To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

Highly organized trade unions

Specialization in “purple” dye

Lydia a “Purple” merchant from Thyatira.



Attribute

*These are the words of the Son of God,
whose eyes are like blazing fire and
whose feet are like burnished bronze.*

He knows and judges everything



***Emphasis on
wisdom,
judgment,
discipline.***

Approval - Commendation

I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

**Their work inspired by
faith and love, and
persevering faith.**



Accusation

Committed but Corrupted

²⁰ Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.



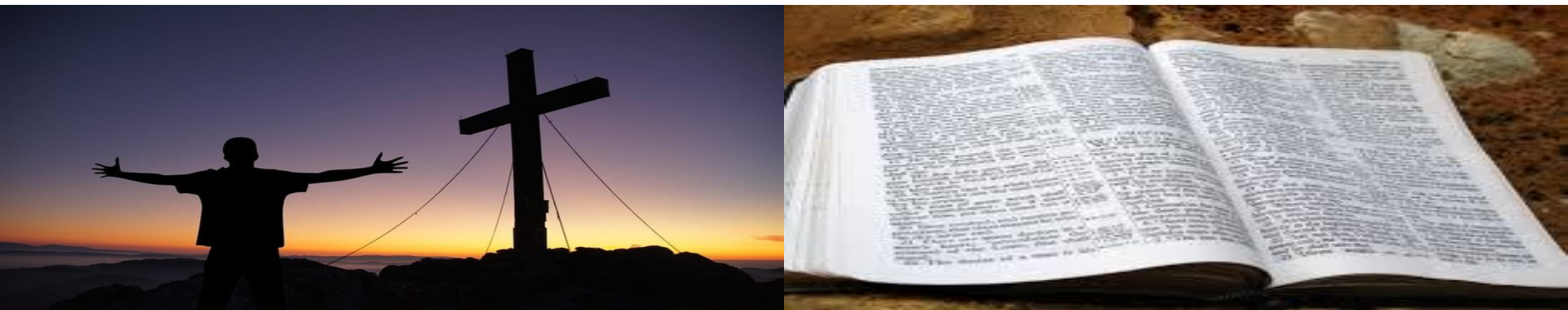
**False teaching,
idolatry, and
immorality.**

Advice - Exhortation

*Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira,
to you who do not hold to her teaching and
have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets
(I will not impose any other burden on you):
²⁵ Only hold on to what you have until I come.*

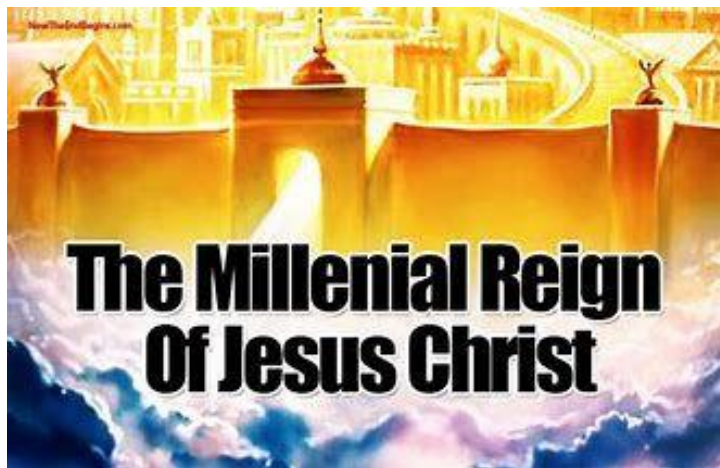
Stand up to the test

Hold on to the truth of God



Assurance/Appeal

- 26 To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—***
- 27 ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery — just as I have received authority from my Father.***
- 28 I will also give him the morning star.***



**Promise of
Reigning with
Christ in the
millennium**

False teachings today...



Our compromises

Money, Sex, Power!

- Materialism
- Corruption/Injustice
- Homosexuality

Health and Wealth Gospel Hyper-grace



The Sardis Church

To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

- **A Commerce Centre**
- **Wealthy capital of ancient Lydia.**
- King Croesus invented silver and gold coins.
- ***'The Midas Touch'***

False 'Security'

Situated 1500 feet above.



Attribute

*To the angel of the church in Sardis write:
These are the words of him who holds the
seven spirits of God and the seven stars.*

**One full of the Spirit and
is in control**



Approval with Accusation

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

A 'Dynamic' but Dying church

A False Reputation

Looks good outside, but hopeless inside.

Physically Alive but Spiritually Death



Advice - Correction

² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent.

Be watchful, do not be complacent!

Be Strengthened to Finish Well!

Jesus is coming...

**WAKE UP!
SHAPE UP!
CLEAN UP!**

A Call to Spiritual Revival

Return to the basic

- ***Be strengthened by Spirit's power.***
- ***Remember what you have received.***
- ***Hold fast to the Word, obey and repent!***



Assurance/Appeal

⁴ Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life.



**Few Faithful
Remnants
*Righteous Saints
of his kingdom***

A photograph of a wooden piano in a dimly lit room. The piano is the central focus, with its keys and body visible. The lighting is warm and focused on the piano, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The background is dark, with some vertical lines suggesting a wall or paneling.

Nominal Christianity

*“Here is a picture of
nominal Christianity,
outwardly prosperous,
busy with externals of
religious activity,
but devoid of spiritual
life and power.”*

George Ladd