



Session 8 | Revelation 3:1-13

THE CHURCH AT SARDIS | REVELATION 3:1-6

THE DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST | V. 1

- The one who has the Seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, which are the Pastors.

THE MESSAGE TO THE MESSENGER | VV. 1-4

- I Know...
 - Thy works
 - The reputation of life
 - The deadness of the Pastor (no doubt of his spiritual vitality)
- The Commendation:
 - V. 4 - This Pastor does not really get a commendation. The closest it comes is that there are a few within the church who still remain faithful.
 - Note that the faithfulness of a member is not dependent upon the spiritual life of the Pastor.
- The Condemnation:
 - "Be watchful," or WAKE UP!
 - Your works are not complete, yet you are letting them die
 - If the Pastor does not remember and repent, the Lord will come upon him suddenly, as a thief, and the Pastor will not be ready. Compare 1 Thes. 5:1-4

THE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH | VV. 5-6

- The overcomer will be dressed in white, priestly robes.
- The overcomer's name is safely in the book of life.
- Jesus will confess the name of the overcomer before the Father and His angels.

THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA | REVELATION 3:7-13

THE DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST | V. 7

- Unlike the other churches, this description is entirely new, not found in chapter 1.
- The person of Christ: Holy and true
- The possession of Christ: the key of David (compare Isaiah 22:20-25)

THE MESSAGE TO THE MESSENGER | VV. 8-11

- The message to this pastor does not fit the pattern used in other churches (I know / commendation / condemnation).
- Because Christ knows the works of this Pastor:
 - Behold: an open door (v. 8)
 - The open door is not defined in the passage, and any definition is speculation, though the door is almost certainly not literal.
 - The door has been set before them because:
 - The Pastor has a little power (presumably spiritual power, but not defined)
 - With this power the Pastor kept God's Word
 - With this power, keeping God's Word, the Pastor did not deny Christ's name
 - Behold: a synagogue of Satan (v. 9)
 - This synagogue is "of Satan" and made of those who declare themselves to be Jews even though they are not Jews, they are liars.
 - These liars will be forced to:
 - Come and worship in the sight of the Pastor
 - Recognize the love of Christ for this Pastor
 - Behold: I am coming quickly (v. 10-11)
 - Verse 11 is the result of verse 10 (rather than verse 10 being the cause of verse 9).
 - The coming appearance (v. 11)
 - I come *quickly* (an adverb)
 - Hold fast: there is a chance of losing the *crown* (not the salvation)
 - The Pastor's action: Keeping the word of Christ's endurance
 - The result: Being kept from the hour of testing that will come.
 - This testing will come upon the whole earth
 - This time is to test "those who dwell on the earth"
 - This phrase is only used of the time of Tribulation
 - See Revelation Rev 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 14; 17:8

THE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH | VV. 12-13

- To the overcomer, Christ will:
 - Make him a pillar in the Temple, where he will dwell forever
 - Write upon him
 - The name of God
 - The name of the New Jerusalem (the Bride of Christ)
 - The new name of Christ
- The one with ears, should hear!