

## The One Who Conquers (*Part 2*)

### *Revelation 3:4-6*

**Thought for the Day:** Those who put their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation: 1) Will be absolutely perfect before God; 2) Will be eternally secure in Heaven; and 3) Will be proudly acknowledged by God as His precious children.

There was within the spiritually dead church of Sardis a faithful remnant who did not compromise with sin by conforming to the culture around them. To these believers Jesus gave three promises to encourage and motivate them to persevere in the faith. These same promises should also encourage and motivate us to remain faithful to the Lord until He comes.

#### I. The Greeting (3:1a)

**1 And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.**

- A spiritually healthy church is empowered by the Holy Spirit and controlled by the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### II. The Condemnation (3:1b)

**I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.**

- A spiritually dead church is completely ineffective and utterly useless for glorifying God and advancing His kingdom.

#### III. The Exhortation (3:2-3a)

**2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent.**

- A spiritually dead church can be restored to spiritual vitality by repenting of carelessness and complacency concerning the things of God and recommitting itself to obedience to the Word of God.

#### IV. The Warning (3:3b)

**If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.**

- An unrepentant church can expect imminent disciplinary judgement from the Lord.

#### V. The Promise (3:4-6)

**4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments...**

##### A. **The Promise of Absolute Perfection (3:4-5a)**

**...and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments...**

- White garments are a symbol of purity and righteousness.
- White garments symbolize two things:

- 1) Positional Purity & Righteousness: The cleansing from sin that we receive through faith in Jesus Christ.
- 2) Practical Purity & Righteousness: The purity and righteousness that is manifested in the lives of the saints by means of good works which will be deemed worthy of reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

## **B. The Promise of Eternal Security (3:5b)**

### **...and I will never blot his name out of the book of life.**

- This is a promise of eternal citizenship in the kingdom of heaven.
- "The promise that names will not be blotted out of the book does not necessitate a belief that some names will be blotted out, though many argue that possibility. This promise is a simple yet powerful statement of assurance to all who place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior—you cannot have your name removed from the Book of Life! No true believer can ever lose his salvation." (*Hocking, World Leader, p. 85*)

## **C. The Promise of Complete Acceptance (3:5c)**

### **I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.**

- This promise reflects two similar promises that Jesus made to His followers during His earthly ministry: Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 12:8-9.
- It also connects to Paul's teachings in Romans 10:9-10 and 2 Timothy 1:8.
- The one who confess Christ before others, Christ will confess his / her name before the Father and His angels.
- Throughout this letter there is an emphasis on the word "name."
  - The name, of course, stands for the person.
  - Greek word – *ónoma* = reputation (vs. 1) [a name – *NKJV, NASB, RSV*]; names (vs. 4); name (twice in vs. 5).
  - All of this points to a profound truth. In Christ we have an eternal acceptance and identity: 1) We are known by Him; 2) We are accepted by Him; and 3) We belong to Him. (*Swindoll, Revelation, p. 69*)
- If we confess and acknowledge Jesus before men, Jesus will proudly and publicly confess our name, before His Father and His angels.
- Those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord will be disowned by Him. (Matthew 10:33)
- The profession of Jesus at your baptism is only a beginning.
- It's a question of what we truly believe in our heart. What we truly believe in our heart will manifest itself in what we say about Jesus in our conversations with others and how we live for Jesus on a daily basis. (Matthew 7:21-23)

## **6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

Positional: Have you trusted in Jesus to be the Savior of your soul and the Lord of your life?

Practical: Are you demonstrating the reality of that fact by acknowledging Him before others—by the things you say and the things you do?

If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?