

Here are some brief summaries of what we covered on The Apocalypse of St. John, Chapter Three:

As we began our opening prayers I asked that we kept in mind an intention: We are here to learn God's word and to draw closer to Christ our Savior: Let's pray that God uses this time to guide our hearts to hear what He has to say to us. I also made an initial observation: We as a Church never read the book of the Apocalypse. So this is a unique opportunity for us as individuals and especially collectively as a Church to see what God has to say to us through this divine book. Let's make the most of this opportunity.

SUMMARY OF OUR LORD'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF SARDIS: The Church of Sardis had so completely compromised with the surrounding pagan world that Jesus calls it spiritually dead (v.1). This is a call for us not to compromise with the world but to "hold fast" to the truth of our holy faith and repent where we have failed (v.3). The Lord is coming like a thief in the night and we better be prepared (v.3). If we overcome and conquer the world through our fidelity to Christ, we are promised by our Lord that our names will be written in the book of life (v.4-5).

SUMMARY OF OUR LORD'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA: Philadelphia has kept God's Word and have not denied His name. Jesus tells them He knows their works and He places before them an open door to paradise which no one can shut (v.8). Because of their perseverance in faith Christ promises to be with them in their hour of testing which is to come upon the whole world (v.10). If they hold fast He will make them a pillar in the temple of God and claim them as His own (v.12). We too, if we God's Word and persevere, are promised to be made pillars of God's Church.

SUMMARY OF OUR LORD'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA: Laodicea was neither cold nor hot in their faith (v.15). Jesus knows their works, just as He knows all our works (v.15). Preoccupation with material wealth and comfort had blinded them to the fact of that the fervor of their faith had become deadened (v.17). Our Lord rebukes and chastens those whom loves therefore He calls them to be zealous for their faith and repent of wrongdoings (v.19). To those who do overcome the world, Laodiceans and us, He will give to dine with Him at the heavenly banquet (v.20). To those who conquer He will grant to sit with Him on His throne (v.21).