

Revelation Chapter Three

- The Church at Sardis [3:1-6].
 - The pastor of this church is not commended for any positive attributes, only a false claim [3:1].
 - The four commands for him are to (a) wake up, (b) remember, (c) strengthen and (d) repent and, if he fails to obey, the Lord will come like a thief [3:2-3].
 - The pastor's failures have caused the church to be very unhealthy, but there is a remnant [3:4].
 - The overcomer will be clothed in white and is promised that he cannot lose his salvation [3:5].
- The Church at Philadelphia [3:7-13].
 - The pastor of this church is commended for five positive attributes [3:8, 10] with no negatives given.
 - He is promised an open door for ministry [3:8], spiritual fruit in evangelism [3:9] and deliverance from a coming world-wide temptation [3:10].
 - The one commands for him is to hold fast [3:11].
 - The overcomer will be made a pillar in the eternal temple and is identified with Jesus Christ and God the Father [3:12].
- The Church at Laodicea [3:14-22].
 - The pastor of this church is not commended for any positive attributes and his lukewarm ministry makes the Lord want to vomit [3:15-16].
 - As with the pastor in Sardis, he is delusional [3:17], so he is advised to seek God's treasures [3:18].
 - The two commands for him are to be zealous and repent [3:19].
 - Fellowship with God is promised to every believer who responds to the invitation and seeks it [3:20].
 - The overcomer will be seated in a place of honor at the Son's right hand [3:21].
 - The Son was seated in a place of honor at the Father's right hand [Rom 8:34; Heb 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Pet 3:22].
 - The seating of the overcomers (believers) at the Son's right hand could very well be fulfilled in the Fullness of the Times when Jesus Christ takes the title of Eternal Father [Isa 9:6].

- Many see the seven churches of Rev 2 & 3 as being a typology for the Dispensation of the Church.
 - Ephesus ≈ The apostolic church
 - Smyrna ≈ The martyred church (100 – 314 A.D.)
 - Pergamum ≈ The worldly church (314 – 590 A.D.)
 - Thyatira ≈ The Roman church (590 – 1517 A.D.)
 - Sardis ≈ The reformation church (1517 – 1700 A.D.)
 - Philadelphia ≈ The revived church (1700 – 1900 A.D.)
 - Laodicea ≈ The modern church (1900 A.D. – present)