

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Letters to the Seven Churches:

1. **Ephesus** did a lot of great things, but in the process _____ their first love.
2. **Smyrna** suffered a great deal for their steadfast love and service of Jesus Christ, and were instructed to look to their _____ reward for encouragement & strength.
3. **Pergamum** was commended for standing strong in Satan's kingdom. But some of them were severely warned to stop _____ their Christian faith and practices, or Jesus would be coming personally to fight against the compromisers.
4. **Thyatira** had many positive qualities – similar to Ephesus, including _____. But like Pergamum, had also compromised their Christian faith and practice by following a false teacher. This time however, the time to repent had _____. Severe judgement was _____ coming for Jezebel and her officials.

Sardis – Revelation 3:1-6

1. Sardis was an older, well established, and wealthy city. Sardis's main and dominant false god was Artemis, creating a city full of paganism and idolatry.
2. Jesus again starts the message reflecting on their deeds, but Sardis's deeds were _____ commendable, but were instead the _____.
 - a. All their deeds are summed up with the phrase, "You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead"
 - i. _____, but not _____
 - ii. Think Pharisees and Sadducees from the Gospels
 - b. They _____ faithful, dedicated, caring, serving, and Christian.
 - i. Some were _____, some were _____.
3. Jesus call was for them to "wake up", and "strengthen what remains".
4. Jesus warning was that before they know it, it _____.
(like a thief – surprising, unexpected)

5. Jesus promise to their true believers is _____ assurance & eternal reward.
 - a. _____ with Jesus, _____ like Jesus
 - b. I will **never** blot your name from the book of life (not a threat, but a **reminder**)

Warning to the church of 2023 and HBC:

1. Unworthy churches and false converts can _____ very real on the outside, while at the same time we very dead on the inside.
2. Even true believers _____ get trapped inside a dead or dying church.
3. No matter how many good deeds you do, even as part of a church, you will not be welcomed into heaven without having a _____ with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (Matthew 7:21-23)
4. You _____ build for yourself a stairway to heaven, that leads to the very gates of Hell.

Application:

1. Church leaders (Pastors, Elders, Deacons) should _____ be chosen for business success, personality appeal, popularity, charisma, age, wealth, or willingness to be the bad guy.
2. Pastors, Elders, and Deacons should _____ be chosen through the realization that they are qualified under the conditions of I Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
3. We must be _____ and unashamed on what the gospel is and is not.
 - a. The gospel is God's _____ plan for His created children who have sinned. (Romans 3:23, and 6:23)
 - b. The gospel is that Jesus Christ suffered and died, **voluntarily**, as a sinless human sacrifice, so that you and I could have an **opportunity** for our sins to be forgiven. (Romans 5:8)
 - c. The gospel is God's _____ that he will indeed respond to anyone who calls out for forgiveness and salvation, **adopting** them into His family, bring them into His eternal kingdom, and **rescuing** them from an eternal Hell. (Romans 10:9-13)