

Hello Church,

We are studying Revelation 3:1-6 again this week. Jesus is speaking to a dead church which still have some who remain “spiritually” alive. There are many good nuggets of discussion and study that we should have from this text. Below are some questions and scriptures to enhance the study and give us opportunity for the Holy Spirit to speak to us. “He who has an ear let him hear”, Amen!

The **BIG IDEA** I am focusing on is this; “God’s REALITY is more important than our REPUTATION”.

*Sardis had a reputation of being an “Alive” Church; sadly, this was not their reality before God. Jesus speaks and gives a sobering message of reality, followed by a command to action and a promise for the overcomers.

*I gave an illustration regarding Samson, what a sad scripture to read in Judges 16:20 when Samson awoke to go out as before “but he did not know the Lord had left him”. Wow, a very sad commentary!

Question #1 - Based upon Revelation 3:2 what does Jesus mean when he says “Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God”?

Question #2 - What does it mean to “quench” the Holy Spirit? I know this word is not present in this text but let’s examine what it means. When the word “quench” is used in Scripture, it is speaking of suppressing fire. The Holy Spirit is a fire dwelling in each believer. This is the spirit of God, our power and strength. The Holy Spirit wants to express Himself in our actions and attitudes. When believers do not allow the Spirit to lead or be seen in our actions, when we do what is wrong according to God, we suppress or quench the Spirit (Thessalonians 5:19).

Read:

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Ephesians 4:17- 5:5

According to God Questions.org, both quenching and grieving the Spirit are similar in effects. Both hinder a godly lifestyle. Both happen when a believer sins against God and follows his or her own worldly desires. They state “The only correct road to follow is the road that leads the believer closer to God and purity, and father away from the world and sin”.

What do you think?

The word “Purity” was used in the comment quoted above. I love this word! What is purity and why do you think it is important?

PURITY - For a study on purity go to the link listed below for more study;

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-purity.html>

HOLINESS- For another good study and a significant word/topic go to;

<https://www.gotquestions.org/holiness-Bible.html>

In Revelation 3:3 Jesus gives a prescription or “remedy” to the patient. The three words he uses are “**Remember**- what you have heard, what you have received and heard; **Obey it** and **Repent**”. **What does he mean? What significance is to individuals and the church today?**

Another hard topic in this Revelation Text might be the discussion on the “Book of Life”. This is the register of all true believers, those who have been granted heavenly citizenship. Read the following for more on this topic;

Rev 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 15, 21:27

Luke 10:20

Phil 4:3

Heb 12:23

*The Old Testament speaks of a register of God’s people;

Exodus 32:32-33

Ps 69:28

Daniel 7:10, 12:1

*Cities in Asia Minor had citizenship registers, and the royal archives were actually housed in Sardis. A person’s name could be erased from the register if they forfeited their citizenship (e.g. committing a crime calling for the death penalty). Local synagogues also had registers, and deletion from the synagogue register left Christians especially vulnerable under Domitian. Against this background, Jesus promises the faithful believers in Sardis that he will never blot their names out of the heavenly register (3:5). Instead, he will acknowledge them before the Father, meaning they will receive salvations (Rev 21:27, Matt 10:32-33, Luke 12:8-9). Those whose names are not written in the book of life, however, will receive eternal condemnation (Rev 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 15).

In Revelation 3, Jesus is simply reassuring the faithful remnant that their heavenly citizenship is secure and is not tied to their names being recorded in either the city of the synagogue registers. It’s the book of life that really matters!

May the Lord bless you as you continue to study Revelation!

Pastor Jon