

Letters from Heaven – Part 2

Revelation 3; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 10-31-2021

Introduction

Truth Alert #1: As a fallen sinner without the light of the gospel truth and the grace of God, you make poor decisions. It's what you (and I) do!

Truth Alert #2: Through a proper response to the gospel (truth) by God's grace, we can make wise decisions in a dangerous world.

1. *Sardis*: The Sleeping and Forgetful Church (3:1-6)

The City - 3:1a

- This city was captured through a lack of vigilance.
- This city had a glorious past but in its decline had come to be viewed by some as 'the city of death.'
- This city worshiped the goddess, Cybele, who supposedly could bring the dead to life.

The Character of Christ (3:1a): This is the picture of Christ as the Enabler and Helper, the Giver of Life. - John 15:1-11; 16:5-15

The Commendation: None

The Correction – 3:1b (James 2:14-26)

The Call to Action – 3:2-3

The Consequences – 3:2, 3b-4

The Promised Reward – 3:5

The Call to Hear – 3:6

The Danger: Do you see the real danger of hearing the Word but not doing the Word? – Matthew 7:24-27

The Heart of God: God cares whether we take his Word seriously and act on what we hear: with prayer, in our attitudes, words, actions and lifestyle. He cares whether we trust more and love more in light of what we hear in his Word. – James 1:19-25

2. *Philadelphia*: The Persevering but Weary Church (3:7-13)

The City - 3:7

- This city was known for a lengthy dependence on Rome.
- This city often experienced earthquakes.
- This city had received new names.

The Character of Christ (3:7): This is the picture of Christ as the 'Royal Doorkeeper' or Door to the Kingdom. – John 10:7-10

The Commendation – 3:8-10

The Correction: None

The Call to Action – 3:11

The Consequences – 3:8-11

The Promised Reward – 3:12

The Call to Hear - 3:13

The Danger: Do you see the real danger of growing weary in doing what is right and wise? - Hebrews 3:14

The Heart of God: God cares for his weary people but calls them to keep going and not give up though the road is long and hard. The danger of falling away is real but no real believers will fall away because they heed the warning and hold on! – Galatians 6:6-10

3. *Laodicea*: The Self-Sufficient and Indifferent Church (3:14-22)

The City - 3:14

- This city was so wealthy it didn't need help from Rome after an earthquake.
- This city was a prominent center for banking and commerce.
- This city was known for its textile production, especially black woolen products.
- This city was known for its medical school and a powder that was used to make eye salve.
- This city didn't have a good source of water (unlike Colossae that had cool, pure drinking water or Hierapolis that had hot springs known for their medicinal value) so it had to bring it in from some hot springs at a distance and by the time it arrived it was lukewarm.

The Character of Christ (3:14): This is the picture of Christ as the Truth Speaker. – John 1:14; 14:6; 18:37-38

The Commendation: None

The Correction - 3:15-17

The Call to Action – 3:18-20

The Consequences – 3:16, 18, 20

The Promised Reward – 3:21

The Call to Hear – 3:22

The Danger: Do you see the real danger of living like you don't need God? – Matthew 6:31-33

The Heart of God: God cares whether we seek Him first and live like we need Him. To not do so, is to be practical atheists and idolators. It is to be proud and ungrateful. But God gives grace to the humble. – James 4:1-10

Conclusion

Do you see yourself as ...

Hearing the Word but not doing the Word?

Growing weary in doing what is right and wise?

Living like you don't need God?